

CM/15

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Proceeding and Report of

The

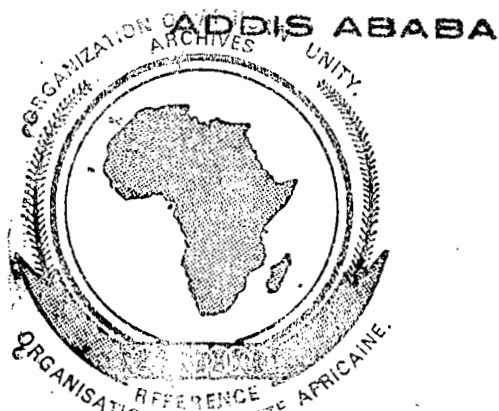
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

Addis Ababa, January 1964

MICROFICHE

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY
SECRETARIAT**

P. O. Box 3243



**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
AFRICAIN
SECRETARIAT**

B. P. 3243

**ECOS
27 January 1964**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
First Session
Niamey, December 1963**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	ECOS
2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA	ECOS/1
3. SUMMARY RECORDS	ECOS/9/SR.1 ECOS/10/SR.2 ECOS/11/SR.3 ECOS/13/SR.4 ECOS/21/SR.5
4. RESOLUTIONS	ECOS/12/RES/1 (I) ECOS/16/RES/2 (I) ECOS/17/RES/3 (I) ECOS/18/RES/4 (I) ECOS/19/RES/5 (I) ECOS/20/RES/6 (I)
5. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION OF THE OAU	ECOS/2/Rev.1
6. STATEMENT BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OAU	ECOS/3
7. MEMORANDUM BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION OF THE OAU IN INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION	ECOS/4
8. MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY THE PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT ON THE FORTHCOMING UNITED NATIONS TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE	ECOS/5
9. NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ECA	ECOS/6

INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity held its first session in Niamey, Niger, from 9th to 13th December 1963. The meeting was attended by delegations from twenty-four Member States.
2. H.E. COURMO BARCOURGNE, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Niger, was elected Chairman.
3. The Commission proceeded to consider the Provisional Agenda (ECOS/1) and the Draft Rules of Procedure (ECOS/2) which it adopted with slight amendments.
4. The Representative of Sudan and the Representative of Mali were elected as First and Second Vice-Chairman, respectively. The Representatives of Tunisia and Ghana were elected as First and Second Rapporteurs, respectively.
5. The Plenary created two committees.
 - Committee I, under the Chairmanship of the First Vice-Chairman, considered item 3 of the Agenda, Terms of Reference and Programme of Work and Priorities:
 - a) Promotion of Economic trade cooperation and development of transportation among Member States,
 - b) Cooperation in and growth of Social Affairs.
 - Committee II, under the chairmanship of the Second Vice-Chairman, considered item 4 of the Agenda:

Co-ordination and harmonization of positions of Member States in the United Nations World Trade and Development Conference of 1964.

6. Committee I submitted to the Plenary Session four draft resolutions:
 - On terms of reference of the Commission and programme of work and priorities,
 - On relationship with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa,
 - On Social and Labour Problems, and
 - On the Organization of Youth.
7. Committee II submitted to the Plenary Session a draft resolution on the forthcoming United Nations World Trade and Development Conference.
8. The Commission adopted, with slight amendments, the five draft resolutions submitted by its two Committees. The Commission also adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation for the help rendered by the Government of the Republic of Niger in the preparations for the Conference.

ECOS/1

6 September 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
First Session
Niamey, December 1963

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- I. (a) Election of officers
(b) Adoption of the Agenda
(c) Organization of the Session
- II Study and adoption of the draft rules of procedure of the Commission (for submission to the Council of Ministers)
- III. Functions of the Commission :
 - (a) Promotion of Economic trade co-operation and development of transportation among Member States
 - (b) Co-operation and growth of Social Affairs
- IV. Resolutions of the Cairo Conference on the problems of Economic Development, July 1962 : (a) Coordination and Harmonization of positions in the World Trade Conference of 1964
- V. General discussion on the following items :
 - A. Economic Affairs
 - 1. Establishment of a free trade area between African States
 - 2. Establishment of a common external tariff
 - 3. Restructuralization of international trade
 - 4. African trade fairs and exhibitions

5. Transportation
6. Establishment of an African Payments and Clearing Union
7. National currencies : freeing from no-technical external attachments
8. Harmonization of national development plans (Resolution E of the Summit Conference)

B. Social and Labour Matters

1. Exchange of Social and Labour legislation
 2. Establishment of African Youth Organization
 3. Organization of African Sports and Games
 4. Vocational training courses for African workers
 5. Establishment of an African Trade Union (Supplementary Resolution A of the Summit Conference will be cited)
- VI. Relationship with relevant organs of the UN and the Specialized Agencies
- VII. Recommendations to be submitted to the Council of Ministers
- VIII. Date and place of next meeting
- IX. Other items

SUMMARY RECORDS

OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION HELD IN
NIAMEY, NIGER, FROM 9 TO 13 DECEMBER 1963

ECOS/9/SR.1

Summary record of the first plenary meeting.

Opening of the Session.
Election of the Chairman.

ECOS/10/SR.2

Summary record of the second plenary meeting.

Address by the President of the Republic of Niger.
Adoption of the provisional agenda.

ECOS/11/SR.3

Summary record of the third plenary meeting.

ECOS/13/SR.4

Summary record of the fourth plenary meeting.

ECOS/21/SR.5

Summary record of the fifth plenary meeting.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING
held at the Assemblée nationale, Niamey
on Tuesday, 10 December 1963, at 10.25 a. m.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL pointed out that a number of delegations had not arrived because of communication difficulties, but, in the absence of Rules of Procedure specifying a quorum, work might begin. He suggested that the meeting should proceed to elect a Chairman.

H.E. Endalkatchew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) nominated as President of the Commission Mr. Courmo BARCOURGNE, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Niger. In doing so he was moved not only by the tradition of according that high office to the chief delegate of the host country, which would have been an adequate reason, but in addition they were greatly honoured to have as chief representative of the host country a person of such high standing and great distinction who had played an important part in the economic life of his country and of the African continent. The election of one with such experience and wisdom to the Chair would greatly benefit the Commission and expedite its work.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL in the absence of any further nominations declared Mr. Courmo BARCOURGNE duly elected by acclamation.

Mr. Courmo BARCOURGNE then took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Conference for the honour done to him. He said that he was convinced that African Unity would be achieved and that the continent would become what the Africans wished it to become. Africa should act in such a way that its stores of wisdom became available to humanity. He was convinced that, together, the Africans would lay the foundations of a united and prosperous Africa.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING
held at the Assemblée nationale, Niamey
on Tuesday, 10 December 1963, at 16.25 p.m.

The meeting opened at 16.25 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN gave the floor to H.E. Mr. DIORI HAMANI, the President of the Republic of Niger.

H.E. Mr. DIORI HAMANI (President of the Republic of Niger) delivered a speech, the text of which is attached hereto in extenso.

The meeting was suspended at 16.35 p.m. and was resumed at 16.40 p.m.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL read a statement in which he said that the first meeting of the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU afforded a unique opportunity to think about the future of inter-African co-operation in the economic and social fields. Although the Charter of the Organization had laid down principles for, and a broad framework within which inter-African economic and social co-operation could develop, these were not sufficient in themselves. It would very soon be necessary to think in terms of programmes and necessarily in terms of resources. The Commission should recognize the limitation of Africa's resources and should be selective in developing programmes and projects. It would also be necessary to take into account the activities of other international organizations in order to complement or strengthen their efforts.

The development of the Commission's activities should go hand in hand with the increase in the resources of the Continent. The main concern of the Commission should be the development of programmes of co-operation.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL pointed out that the Secretariat had submitted a memorandum which although not exhaustive could be useful in their discussions. It could not, however, possibly cover all the items appearing on the provisional agenda. The item relating to the coordination of the policies of African countries in the forthcoming conference of the United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development was an exception. The importance to Africa of international trade should be fully emphasized.

The Economic and Social Commission of the OAU had a twofold objective : to promote inter-African co-operation in economic and social fields and contribute to the efficient development of Africa by tapping the benefits of the economy of scale. Africa was suffering from a fragmentation into many anomalous political units and as a consequence the forces of the economy of scale would work adversely against the African continent.

Sooner or later Africa would have to think of organizing her efforts and pooling her resources. Africa as a whole remained the least developed of all the under-developed areas of the world and therefore had the furthest to travel. That knowledge might double their determination.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL concluded by expressing his deepest thanks to the President of the Republic of Niger for his statement. He also expressed appreciation of the generosity, hospitality and assistance of the Government of Niger who were bearing the major portion of the expenses of the present Conference. The Economic Commission for Africa and its Executive Secretary had also been most helpful. He expressed his belief that under the guidance of the Chairman the discussions would be most fruitful.

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Acting Secretary-General for his brilliant statement. He recommended that the Commission should adopt the agenda.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL recommended that the agenda be adopted in its present form. A provisional agenda for the present meeting had been adopted by the Committee of Experts at the Summit Meeting. Many of the items included were suggestions for future rather than present action. He recommended that on acceptance of the agenda the meeting should proceed to establish terms of reference of the Commission and to produce a work programme to be undertaken as resources became available.

Mr. Mohamed Ali AMER (United Arab Republic) said because of the importance of transport and communications these subjects should form a separate sub-division of item (5) of the agenda. The item should have three sub-divisions : (a) economic affairs, (b) transport and communications and (c) social and labour matters. Sub-division (b) should comprise : (i) means of transport by land, sea and air; (ii) telecommunications; (iii) posts. He also proposed the following amendments : in item (5) (a) sub-items (1), (2) and (3) should be amalgamated under sub-item (1); sub-items (6) and (7) should be amalgamated under sub-item (2); and sub-item (8) should be renumbered sub-item (3). He

further proposed that under Social and Labour Affairs sub-item (4) should be renumbered (2) sub-item (5) re-numbered (3) and sub-item (2) re-numbered (4); and sub-item (3) be re-numbered (5). He believed those modifications were desirable to bring related subjects together.

The CHAIRMAN recommended that the Commission should first adopt the agenda and then proceed to discuss the distribution of the various points.

The representative of Gabon thought the concern of the Commission should be with its programme of work rather than with the agenda. It was necessary to decide the terms of reference of the Commission. Once those were accepted the agenda could be settled in relation to priorities. He suggested that the Commission should deal first with the United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development.

Mr. B. BAKRY (Sudan) proposed as a compromise that the terms of reference could be dealt with apart from the major agenda in terms of (1) Election of officers and Adoption of Rules of Procedure, (2) Terms of reference of the Commission, (3) United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development, (4) Other business of programmes and priorities.

The representative of Madagascar was in partial agreement with the view of the representatives of Gabon and the United Arab Republic. He believed the draft agenda formed a programme of work which the Commission would have to examine during future sessions. He considered that the establishment of a joint external tariff was dependent on the establishment of a free trade area and that the latter question should therefore be studied first. Therefore he suggested that the paragraph be drafted to include a reference to "the possibility of setting up a free trade area among African countries"; deletion of paragraphs 2, 6 and 7; and that in paragraph 8 the Commission should refer to the declared opinion of the Permanent Trade Committee of the ECA which recommended progression by stages. Thus the Commission could abide by the terms of the Summit Conference Resolutions.

Mr. A.R. HORTON (Liberia) expressed his Delegation's deep appreciation of the hospitality extended by the people of Niger and their gratitude to the President of the Republic of Niger for his opening address. The agenda prepared by the Secretariat was clear and comprehensive bringing

out the full ambitions of the Commission. He proposed that the agenda as prepared by the Secretariat be amended to cover (a) Election of Officers, (b) Adoption of the Agenda, (c) Adoption of Rules of Procedure and (d) Setting up of Committees with two Sub-Committees, one for a work programme and priorities and one for summary records, resolutions and recommendations. Item 3 would provide an opportunity to coordinate policy between African States attending the United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development. He proposed that the Commission's relationship with the Economic Commission for Africa and other agencies be dealt with on item 4; that item 5 should cover the report of the Committee on the work programme and list of priorities for the Commission, and that summary records and recommendations to the Council of Ministers be dealt with under item 6. Dates of future meetings and other business should then be discussed.

The representative of Guinea suggested, in view of the various opinions that had been expressed, that the meeting be adjourned to allow Heads of delegations to consult.

The representative of Togo suggested the adoption of the draft agenda since only minor points had been raised by other delegations. Also as certain problems had already been examined by different bodies he thought it would be advisable to study them in the light of resolutions which had already been adopted.

The representative of Mali considered that the agenda was too wide in its scope and suggested that a choice should be made of the problems to be examined. He did not consider that the draft agenda should be final. He proposed the establishment of priorities and that for this purpose the meeting be adjourned.

The representative of Niger supported the proposal of the Mali representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 17.35 p.m. and was resumed at 18.45 p.m.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL summarized the agenda headings to be adopted by the Commission : (1) Organization, (2) Terms of reference of the Commission, (3) United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development, (4) the Commission's relationship with the Economic Commission for Africa and other Specialized Agencies in Africa, (5) Report of the Sub-Committees, (6) Date and place of meetings, (7) Other business.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the agenda as amended by the delegations.

The agenda, as amended, was adopted

The meeting rose at 18.55 p.m.

STATEMENT delivered by His Excellency Mr. DIORI HAMANI,
President of the Republic of Niger, in Niamey, on 10 December 1963,
on the occasion of the opening of the First Session of the Economic
and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity

Excellencies,
Gentlemen,

For the people of Niger, for its elite, for its Government, it is a deep satisfaction as well as a particular privilege to have the honour to welcome today, in this capital, the distinguished representatives of the First Session of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity.

It is a deep satisfaction, I would even say a great reward. While it is true that all the African Governments, as soon as they achieved their independence, became fully aware of the primary importance of the economic factors in the future of Africa, it was upon the initiative of the Republic of Niger that the first two sessions of the Regional Conference for the co-ordination of programmes of industrial development were held in Niamey in July 1962 and in February 1963. The third session has just been completed in Lagos. The Government of Niger is most happy to see that its main concern and hopes are now shared by virtually all the African States.

I expressed this concern and these hopes at the Summit Conference at Addis Ababa; I deem it appropriate now to recall them very briefly.

One must first of all recognize an obvious factor, namely, the dynamism of the African peoples, a dynamism which, in spite of the considerable losses it suffered in the domestic wars preceding the Colonial rule, in spite of the drains of the slave trade, in spite of the tragic participation in world conflicts on the battlefields of Europe and Asia, has never waned. On the contrary it manifests itself by an ever increasing population.

One can also observe from the changes in the traditional economic and social structures and the disruption of traditional moral values, a remarkable political awakening of the masses, and a strong desire to achieve a higher standard of living and culture.

There is a third factor that has to be recognized, namely, the present position of the Third World in the economic field. Our countries draw their main income from export revenues. The export of agricultural products (oil products, bananas, cocoa, coffee and cereals among others) account for 50 to 90 per cent. This income from exports is decreasing due to the general fall in world commodity prices which are set by the buyers in the western world, following the strict law of supply and demand.

This decrease in the monetary revenue of the African producer produces a proportionate decrease in the budget revenue of the States. The result is an aggravation of deficits, a more binding economic dependence, a slowing down of the equipment for industrialization and a dangerous slackening down of social activities. Indeed, in many African States the precarious condition of national financial resources in comparison with the increase in population tends to hinder the school attendance rate at the expense of cultural development which is the mainspring of technical development.

We may therefore conclude that, unless there is a drastic change in the international economic relations between the highly industrialized countries and the primary producing countries, or the developing countries, the gulf between the living standards of the rich and powerful highly industrialized countries and the others, economically dependent and insufficiently equipped, will grow wider and wider.

But, along with these unfortunate considerations which, nevertheless, have to be recognized, we still have grounds for hope. The political emancipation of the African peoples is occurring at a time when human development is mainly characterized by the rapid progress in science and technology, by the constant and to some extent automatic accumulation of capital in all its aspects, material, cultural and financial. Broad potentialities are opening up for the constructive endeavours of man.

Also, the highly industrialized countries, with a view to securing their domestic balance and also in order to maintain a peaceful system of relationship which is first and foremost beneficial to them, feel the necessity to invest their available excess capital abroad, provided they consider that the economic conditions and political situation are favourable.

It is therefore incumbent upon the African Governments to become fully aware of their needs, to devise urgent measures and long-term plans which will secure their maximum development and which will enable their full integration in the world economic situation.

All this can only be achieved if one goes beyond the narrow frame of frontiers, organizing a common front of interests, setting up large regional bodies, harmoniously balanced and complementing each other. If these targets are fulfilled, and we firmly believe they will be, then Africa will not only have worked for her own expansion but she will also have made a valuable contribution to the peaceful organization of the globe, reducing the causes of international tension.

I was saying, a moment ago, that the choice of the place of your sessions was a redoubtable honour. Niger is, indeed, fully conscious of the present weakness of its economic means compared to those of the sister nations of the OAU, better developed, better endowed, and therefore in a better position to welcome the international meetings. Niger knows that its welcoming possibilities are modest, very limited, but it is persuaded that, despite or even due to this simplicity of conditions, its guests will be able to appreciate the warmth of its hearty hospitality.

On a higher level, the work done by your Assembly in this country, will be followed by international opinion with an interest all the keener owing to it being the first manifestation, in a particularly important field, of the decision taken at Addis Ababa, on the 24th of May, 1963, by the Organization of African Unity.

Indeed we have to show a concrete proof that the Member States of the Organization of African Unity, whose worthy representatives you are, are capable, according to the very wording of the Charter of Addis Ababa, to "co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa."

In this connexion it would be fair to mention the work already done, either by the Economic Commission for Africa, by the CCTA or by the sub-regional organizations for economic co-operation, work which has largely contributed to the scientific knowledge of African problems. But, moreover, by the thorough documentation they have been gathering, by the competent and experienced cadres available, these organizations are a remarkable help for the preparation of the work of your Assembly.

Thus, entirely freed of the need to make previous analyses, the Economic and Social Commission will be able to devote all its efforts to the fulfillment of its mission, which is the synthesis of problems on the level of the African continent, the discussion of the solutions these problems are calling for, the establishment of the recommendations that are to be ultimately submitted to the attention of the Conference of Heads of State and Government. The programme of work of your Session includes the study of various matters of capital importance, which cover a wide range of subjects, from economic, customs and monetary problems, to matters relating to Trade Unions and the creation of an organization of African Youth. Your discussions cover a very wide field.

I am deeply convinced that they will express the constructive determination of all your delegations and their will to put aside minor national interests; and that they will make an effective contribution to the rational, brotherly organization of a united Africa in which each one of our peoples, proud of his redeemed dignity will be in a position to ensure, under better living conditions, the full development of his personality and the permanence of his spiritual values.

Excellencies,

Gentlemen,

I wish to reiterate my sincere wishes for the success of your work.

Long live the Organization of African Unity.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING

held at the Assemblée nationale, Niamey
on Wednesday, 11 December 1963, at 11.30 a.m.

The meeting opened at 11.30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to examine the Draft Rules of Procedure, article by article (Doc.ECOS/2).

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the Draft Rules of Procedure had been drawn up by the Committee of Experts and had been recommended for the five Specialized Commissions. The Defence Commission had adopted similar procedures and he believed that these could now be adopted by the Commission with slight amendments.

Article 1

H.E. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) recommended that the Commission should follow the wording as it stood. Considering the importance of the Commission it was desirable that the level of the representation should be as high as possible and the wording provided that the Economic Minister should attend whenever possible. Any suggestion that plenipotentiaries rather than ministers are acceptable would not be in our interest since this would tend to reduce the importance of the Commission. The Chairman had spoken of the status of the Commission. If it was to have the same status as the Council of Ministers, they should ensure the highest level of representation. He suggested that the word "Ministers" should be retained to ensure the highest level of representation. But that there should be a reference to "Ministers or their colleagues primarily concerned in the economic field, otherwise plenipotentiaries."

Mr. A.G. ANGUILE (Gabon) proposed deleting "or other ministers", the word "plenipotentiaries" being sufficient.

Article 1, as amended, was adopted.

Article 2

Mr. Abdallah LAMRANI (Morocco) considered the Council of Ministers the highest instrument entrusted with the preparation of work for the conference of Heads of State; it was fair, therefore, that the Commission should be responsible to the Council. One could, perhaps, add to Article 2

"and forward its documents through the medium of the Council of Ministers."

Mr. BASHIR BAKRI (Sudan) felt that the Economic and Social Commission should present its reports to the Council of Ministers and Assembly of Heads of State and Government. He believed the Council of Ministers should prepare the work for the Assembly of Heads of State but rather than include the word "answerable" the Commission should report directly through the Council of Ministers to the Assembly without raising questions of responsibility. He proposed deleting "is answerable" and substituting "presents its report."

Mr. H.R. AMONOO (Ghana) said under Article 22 of the Charter, the functions of Specialized Commissions should be carried out in accordance with the present Charter and regulations approved by the Council of Ministers. They had, therefore, no option but to accept the text. If later it was decided to amend the Charter that regulation could be amended.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL read Article XIII, para 2 of the Charter. He pointed out that these were relevant Articles of the Charter which had been taken into consideration by the Committee of Experts in drawing up that Rule.

Mr. A.G. ANGUILE (Gabon) shared the view of the Moroccan and Sudan representatives but thought it was risky to add that the Commission was responsible to the Council of Ministers.

Mr. HAMACIRE N'DOURE (Mali) supported the proposition of the representative of Morocco to word Article 2 as follows :

"The Economic and Social Commission is responsible to the Conference of the Heads of State and Government; it forwards its documents to it through the medium of the Council of Ministers."

Mr. Jacques ADANDE (Dahomey) recalled that in this matter one should rely on the Charter. Under the circumstances, the Commission should remain responsible to the Council of Ministers.

Mr. ABDALLAH LAMRANI (Morocco) explained his amendment : "The Commission is responsible to the Heads of State; it forwards to it the result of its work through the medium of the Council of Ministers."

Mr. H.R. AMONOO (Ghana) said under Article 22 of the Charter, the Rules of Procedure had to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL pointed out that under the Charter each Specialized Commission was required to adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

H.E. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) said their Ghana colleague had drawn attention to a point of procedure which could not be ignored but introduced no new element because the Council of Ministers' approval of the Rules did not imply that this meeting should not have its own views on the conduct of its own proceedings. Delegates should remember that the Council of Ministers was created within a framework of thinking implying that at any rate temporarily the Assembly of Heads of State was a parliament, and the Council an African Cabinet such as might one day be established. The Commission should represent different organisms and ministries of such a government but the organization looked ahead and foresaw the future. He was sure that when the amended Rules of Procedure are sent to the Council of Ministers they would agree that the proper line of responsibility at present was through the Council to Heads of State and that for practical working, reports should go to Heads of State through the Council of Ministers. Therefore the proposal of Mali should be adopted immediately.

Article 2 as amended was adopted.

Article 3

Mr. ABDALLAH LAMRANI (Morocco) proposed the following amendments to the wording : "(i) it is charged with the study of all questions... and has to propose adequate solutions. (ii) it takes cognizance of any questions."

Mr. CONTE SAIDOU (Guinea) preferred the initial wording of paragraph (i) which seemed to have a more active and general sense.

The amendment of paragraph (i) was adopted.

Article 3, as amended, was adopted.

Article 4 was adopted

Article 5 was adopted

Article 6

Mr. COURMO BARCOURGNE (Niger) proposed that the Commission should meet twice a year thus increasing its effectiveness.

Mr. A.G. ANGUILE (Gabon) wished that the word "February" which appeared only in the French text should be deleted. He pointed out that the E.C.A. held its session in February and that other international conferences might occur at this time.

H.E.ENDALKACHEW (Ethiopia) said if the words "at least" were inserted between the words "meet" and "once" this would cover the position and provide for any meetings necessary to consider questions arising at other times.

Mr. Jacques ADANDE (Dahomey) proposed the month of January.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the Commission should not at present tie itself to a precise date.

Mr. BASHIR BAKRI (Sudan) suggested inclusion of the words "shall meet once a year". The text should read "the Economic and Social Commission shall meet once a year in ordinary session." Article 7 removed the need for the words "at least" and he proposed the adoption of the Article as it stood.

Mr. A.R. HORTON (Liberia) said he did not know how the finances of the OAU would be provided. Could there not be added to Rule 6 some such wording as "At its annual session it shall consider and approve its programme and budget for the next fiscal year for submission to the Council of Ministers" ?

Mr. CONTE SAIDOU (Guinea) thought it was necessary to fix the date of the meetings of the Commission if one wished they should take place at all. He supported the proposition of the representative of Dahomey.

The CHAIRMAN insisted on the fact that it is impossible to fix anything at all in this respect, and that it was up to the Secretariat to make all necessary amendments.

Mr. H.R. AMONOO (Ghana) said the Organization was in a formative state and the Council of Ministers had been charged by the Assembly with the task of preparing all programmes. In addition, there was a provisional Secretariat charged with co-ordinating all other meetings. Therefore, it was only necessary to ensure at least one annual meeting. This decision could be left to the Lagos meeting.

The CHAIRMAN recalled that it was the custom, at the end of the sessions, for the Commission to fix the date of the following session.

Mr. CONTE SAIDOU (Guinea) thought that this was an acceptable compromise, but that this custom had to be respected.

The CHAIRMAN explained that, ultimately, it was the Council of Ministers which decided.

H.E. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) said he had in mind suggesting to the Commission the advisability of deleting Rule 7 since the words "at least" covered any necessary extraordinary session and that provision would follow Rules of Procedure prepared for the Defence Commission for which such provision was always required; but it was superfluous here where they could meet at least once a year. The amendment to Rule 6 had now made Rule 7 unnecessary.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL read the text of Rule 6 as amended by the Guinea proposal.

Mr. CONTE SAIDOU (Guinea) thought the expression "at least" was superfluous, and this owing to Article 7, which fixes the extraordinary sessions.

Article 6, amended according to the proposal of the representative of Gabon, and Article 7, were adopted.

Article 8

Mr. CONTE SAIDOU (Guinea) recalled that at Addis Ababa the establishment of a permanent seat had been planned. One should perhaps discuss it in connexion with Article 8.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the establishment of a permanent seat, for example, the question of the seat for the African Development Bank at Khartoum, had caused long discussions. Much as the reflection made by the representative of Guinea was relevant, it was not necessary to state the place of the seat in the Rules of Procedure.

Article 8 was adopted.

Article 9

Mr. HABIB CHERIF (Tunisia) proposed an amendment to Article 9 with the following wording: "... held in public; with the exception of those for which it had expressly been decided differently."

Article 9, thus amended, was adopted.

Article 10

Article 10 was adopted without any discussion.

Article 11

Mr. COURMO BARCOUGNE (Niger) said the Commission was both economic and social. One should make provision for two Rapporteurs since there are two distinct sections.

Article 11, thus amended, was adopted.

Article 12

Mr. HABIB CHERIF (Tunisia) thought the article was not complete and proposed the insertion of provisions in respect of :

- (i) the limitation of time of speaking;
- (ii) the Chairman's authorization to ask for the floor, such provisions being included in the Rules of Procedure of many bodies.

The representative of TOGO supported the delegate of Tunisia but felt that Articles 19 and 22 were the answer to his concern.

Article 12 was adopted.

Article 13

Mr. HABIB CHERIF (Tunisia) proposed the substitution of the Chairman, in the event of his absence or vacancy, by the two Vice-Chairmen in turn.

The representative of TOGO supported the suggestion of the representative of Tunisia.

Article 13, thus amended, was adopted.

Articles 13, 14 and 15 were all adopted without amendments.

Article 16

Mr. ABDALLAH LAMRANI (Morocco) proposed to delete under reservation ... "of two thirds" and replace it by "with reference to Article 7."

Article 16 thus amended was adopted.

Article 17

Article 17 was adopted.

Article 18

Mr. BASHIR BAKRI (Sudan) suggested that for the time being there should be a decision for a vote by a simple majority rather than a two-thirds majority. He pointed out that the work of the Commission had been delayed for two days because of the present position. His proposal would assist their work.

Mr. A.G. ANGUILE (Gabon) recalled that the Rules refer to the Charter of Addis Ababa when it provided for a quorum of two-thirds. Why was the simple majority chosen for the adoption of the resolutions of Article 20 ?

Mr. BASHIR BAKRI (Sudan) said it should be possible to speak of resolutions being carried by a majority of the members present and voting, but he had no strong feelings on the point.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the establishment of the quorum enabled the States to be absent from some of the meetings. One had to go by the quorum. Once the quorum was attained, one could admit that the resolutions should be adopted by simple majority.

Article 18 was adopted.

Articles 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 were adopted without discussions.

Article 26

The representative of Morocco asked that the English and French texts be harmonized.

Article 26 was adopted.

Articles 27 and 28 were adopted without discussions.

Article 29

Mr. HABIB CHERIF (Tunisia) proposed the following amendment:
"simple majority of the present Members to the Commission."

Mr. ABDALLAH LAMRANI (Morocco) drew the attention to the fact that if the resolutions were adopted by a majority of the present members, these majorities could be very reduced and he consequently proposed this amendment.

Article 29 was adopted.

Articles 30, 31 and 32 were adopted without discussion.

Article 33

Mr. HABIB CHERIF (Tunisia) proposed to add at the end of the Article 33 the words : "the vote is announced by the Chairman..."

Article 33, thus amended, was adopted.

Articles 34, 35, 36 and 37 were adopted without discussion.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Rules of Procedure in their entirety.

The Rules of Procedure were adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

12 December 1963

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Corrigendum

The intervention of Mr. ANGUILE (Gabon), which appears at the bottom of page 1, must be placed before the intervention of H.E. Mr. Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia).

Moreover, Article 1 is adopted without amendment (p.1)

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
held at the Assemblée nationale, Niamey
on Wednesday, 11 December 1963, at 15.35 p.m.

The meeting opened at 15.35 p.m.

1. Election of officers (item 1(b) of the agenda).

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Vice-Chairmen proposed by the heads of delegations would be in order of precedence, the representative of Sudan and the representative of Mali.

The representatives of Sudan and Mali were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Rapporteurs proposed by the heads of delegations were the representative of Ghana and the representative of Tunisia.

The representatives of Ghana and Tunisia were elected as Rapporteurs by acclamation.

2. Designation of the Sub-Committees (item 1 (c) of the agenda)

The CHAIRMAN invited each delegation to designate one of their members for each of the two Sub-Committees. He stated that the Heads of delegations would like these Sub-Committees to start their work immediately.

The Acting SECRETARY-GENERAL suggested that the representatives should make brief general comments during the plenary session, prior to committee meetings to take place later in the day.

Mr. A.G. ANGUILE (Gabon) felt that items 2 and 4 should be referred immediately to the Sub-Committees. Item 3 should be briefly discussed during the present plenary session. The Commission had to base its work in studying this point on the various documents referred to it, namely, on the suggestions made by the Acting Secretary-General. This would allow quick elaboration of a draft resolution.

H.E. Mr. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) agreed with the view of the Gabon representative that items 2 and 4 could be referred to the

Committee without much discussion in the plenary sessions; but item 3 touched the very heart of the economic policies and was particularly important in view of the approaching Conference on International Trade and Development.

The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. A. Sylla, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, to comment on the nature and extent of co-operation deemed desirable between the OAU and the ECA.

Mr. A. SYLLA declared that Mr. GARDINER, the Executive Secretary of ECA deeply regretted to have been unable to come in person, but that he sincerely thanked the Commission to have wished to associate the ECA with the work of the Commission. No doubt this was the starting point of a fruitful collaboration between the two organizations.

Recalling that the Conference of the Heads of State, which took place at Addis Ababa, in May, had decided, in its Economic Resolution, "to invite the Economic Commission for Africa to ask its Executive Secretary to accord all support and assistance to the Committee which it would need in the carrying out of its terms of reference; he was convinced that this desire of the African Heads of State would be carried out at the Sixth Session of the ECA. Moreover, the Economic Commission for Africa had already deemed it advisable to prepare for the OAU a certain amount of documentation which would no doubt be useful to the Commission.

It would be advisable to establish a certain parallel action between OAU and ECA which would rapidly help to reach concrete results concerning African problems. Nevertheless, they should beware of unreasonable haste or of any manner of improvisation in finding ways for its implementation. Mr. Sylla said in this connection that ECA, at the request of OAU Secretariat, had made up a Note dealing with the various fields of interest to the African countries stating the practical measures and future action still to be taken by ECA.

This document should determine the areas where collaboration would have the greatest chances of success. It was encouraging to find out that there was similarity of views between ECA and the Provisional

Secretariat of the OAU, concerning the necessity of avoiding duplication. The two Organizations must necessarily be complementary because the whole of their activities were a result of the resolutions which ECOSOC had adopted, largely with the support of the majority of the Members of the OAU. Nevertheless, it should be seen that planned action should always be dependent on financial means and upon the resources of qualified staff. This was a problem for the Member States of the OAU as well as for the Organization of the United Nations. The ECA had already at its disposal a rather important group of qualified personnel which permitted, to a certain extent, the achievement of several items on the present session's agenda. In any event ECA wanted to assure the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU of its fervent wish to collaborate within the limits of its financial possibilities.

The CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. SYLLA for his statement which the Commission had followed with great interest.

Mr. A. R. HORTON (Liberia) agreed with the proposal to distribute the remaining items on the agenda between two Committees and accordingly his Delegation proposed that Committee 1, concerned with work programmes and priorities should deal with items 2 and 4 and that Committee 2 should deal with item 3. He said some heads of delegations considered item 3 so important, involving such major questions of economic policy, that it should be dealt with in plenary session with the opportunity for general statements to be made. He proposed, therefore, the postponement of action of Committee 2 on item 3 until after the Plenary discussion; and that items 5, Report of the Sub-Committee; item 6, date and place of next meeting; item 7, other business and item 8, adjournment, be handled in Plenary.

H. E. Mr. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) said his Delegation attached very particular importance to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development and wished to take the opportunity to comment on the importance of the Conference not only for the African continent but for all the developing areas of the world. The Conference was long overdue and provided a unique opportunity to review the present pattern of world trade and the disequilibrium between the prices of

primary products and industrial goods. He drew attention to page 14 of Secretariat document ECOS/5 of December 2, 1963 which gave a useful summary of the common objectives that Member States had been recommended to follow at that Conference. No doubt negotiations would be difficult with industrial countries seeking to maintain their present position of industrial predominance, and developing countries insisting on a re-definition and re-structuralization of outdated trade organizations and systems. Developing countries would continue to seek removal of all obstacles to international trade and to appeal for fair prices for their primary products with stabilization of prices of industrial products.

If a new era of partnership, requiring adjustment and sacrifice, a great degree of sacrifice was demanded of the fully developed nations, it was right to remind those developed partners that African countries, in their turn, had borne immeasurable sacrifice in the past. Africa's natural wealth had made Europe's wealth. Was it not largely at the expense of developing countries that Europe had been able to attain the high standard of living its people enjoyed ?

If the industrial nations accepted that appeal in a generous spirit they would merely be repaying a debt which was long overdue. The developing countries were not ungrateful for the economic and technical systems received from more advanced nations, assistance which greatly helped their plans and programmes of development. But that assistance must be related to the general pattern of trade and economic development. The whole philosophy of economic assistance rested on the assumption that one helped others to help themselves. That being the essential objective of international economic and technical assistance, clearly such assistance could not be fully effective unless given within the framework of a favourable international trade policy. It was very important, therefore, that countries represented at the Conference should co-ordinate their policies in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretariat on page 14 of Document ECOS/5, and that African countries should not only concert their action but should do everything possible to throw out a line of co-operation with all developing countries of the world to limit injustice and provide a better atmosphere for future economic development.

Mr. A.K. ONWONA-AGYEMAN (Ghana) said his Delegation regarded this

item as perhaps the most important on the agenda. The Commission wished to fulfil the mandate given it under Article XX of the Addis Ababa Charter of African Unity and to strengthen the foundations already laid. Their leaders and peoples expected representatives to put forward proposals for promoting brotherhood and solidarity in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences. By a wrong start the Economic and Social Commission could unwittingly help enemies to destroy African Unity.

The terms of reference should leave no doubt of the Organization's future tasks and the Commission's activities should cover the whole of Africa and its islands. There must be planning on a continent wide-scale, not forgetting territories still under Colonial domination. That course would be a moral help to the cause of freedom and would even spur liberation in South Africa, Liberation of Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese and Spanish Guinea and South Africa should all be covered in the Commission's plans.

To ensure effective and permanent plans the terms of reference should spell out the principle that programmes and work should be on an all-African basis, African-direction and controlled, with the establishment of the African personality in economic and social planning. The terms of reference might include all or some of the proposals in document ECOS/1 Provisional Agenda item 5 (a) and (b). His Delegation would like them to include : 1. The establishment of an African Common Market; the ECA had worked on this proposal and there seemed to be general agreement that it was feasible. 2. Creation of an African Central Bank to deal with monetary matters. This should not be difficult since African States had established through ECA an African Development Bank. 3. A plan for an African currency with an African monetary zone. 4. A continental communication and transport system. It should not be difficult to plan an all-African communication transport system.

The lesson of past experience in inter-African co-operation should be learned. Important resolutions for economic and social co-operation had been adopted at past Conferences, but these had either been forgotten or merely served as material for research workers.

There was a great need for central political direction of their efforts and for the ideal of one Government for all Africa to provide that direction. If the Commission now took the right decisions then the leaders and peoples whom representatives present were serving, would forever bless them.

Mr. A.G. ANGUILE (Gabon) said that his country congratulated itself on the work achieved in view of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development. The Memorandum presented by the Secretary-General, especially the last two pages, was a basic work as well as the subject of a resolution for the Commission. Mr. ANGUILE wanted to make some amendments to the following paragraphs of the Memorandum of the Secretary-General.

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, asking for the abolishment of the obstacles relating to tariff and contingents in the industrialized countries, was neither sufficient nor wise. Indeed, if these restrictive measures were reported, there would be such an affluence of primary products in the markets of these countries, that they would soon witness a drop in prices. For instance if the coffee importation in the industrialized countries was no longer restricted, they would have the right to ask what would become of the exports of coffee of the Ivory Coast, for which this product was a very appreciable source of income. Mr. ANGUILE suggested that it might be better to talk about the organization of the markets for primary products rather than about the total liberalization of exchange.

He thought this suggestion would meet with the approval of other under-developed countries in Africa and other continents.

Paragraph 6: in this paragraph Mr. ANGUILE suggested that the industrialized countries be asked to recognize the need of the under-developed countries to protect their growing national industries by measures relating to tariff and contingent. Moreover, this would be in conformity with a report of the Economic Commission for Africa. The African countries must not be ashamed of making such a demand to the advanced countries, the more so because this protection would only be of a temporary nature.

Paragraph 8 : in connection with this paragraph, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should be discussed as it no longer met the present day requirements. This Agreement had been made and concluded both for and by the developed countries. It would be a good thing to amend it. Consequently, the signature of a special agreement on the commercial relations between developed and non-developed countries should be sought.

Paragraph 3 : Mr. ANGUILE recalled that 18 countries were freely associated with the Economic Commission for Europe; this was a delicate question which would be better left out. He wished only to state that the European Common Market was the only one trying at present to organize the markets of African countries. It would be advisable, therefore, to avoid talking only of the bad effects of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Paragraph 10 : Mr. ANGUILE first recalled paragraph 4 of Section 1 of the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council, which was annexed to the Memorandum of the Secretary-General. Referring afterwards to the fact that the producers of African countries must try to complement each other and not to encroach upon each other. He cited as an example Congo (Brazzaville) which produced tobacco and made cigarettes which it exported to other African countries, which thus did not need to be producers. Needless to say that a means of compensation was foreseen for those importing countries. One should take heed of this liberalization equally beneficial to all the interested parties.

The representative of Guinea thanked the Government of Niger for the hearty welcome which they had all received.

The important problem was that of the establishment and development of Industrialization Centres which would be the driving force in the economic fields.

Development was a problem related to chief products, since it was related in fact, to the export incomes. Resources had to be adjusted to demands. National income was national possession. On the other hand economy had to be harmonized beyond national level. African economies were dependent upon fluctuations of the chief products: short fluctuations,

cyclic fluctuations, long regressive fluctuations due to the modification of demand, the latter one being itself more or less dependent on certain structural social-economic modifications.

Passing to examples, the representative of Guinea stated that between 1901 and 1950 the annual variations in the price of basic products had been in the region of 14% and the annual variations, due to lack of export income, in the region of 23%. The fluctuations of prices and incomes were of the same order as well as the flux of foreign capital. Thus, when the prices of basic products were decreasing, the investments of capital were increasing too. The products were bought by the former dominating nations and capital was provided by the same nations. This resulted in a complete control of African economy, exercised by these countries. The consequence being the non differentiation of these economies.

Some saw in the stabilization of the prices of the basic products the ideal remedy (organized market for groundnuts and cotton, coffee price stabilization scheme). But one had to remember that the dominating countries accepted such systems only when they were certain to obtain substantial counter-parts. Moreover, the problems were being considered not in terms of development but in terms of equalization of prices.

The level of African participation in the world production of basic products varied in function of prices. Example: 82.9% for coconuts, 16% for coffee, 72.6% for cobalt, 33.8% for phosphates, 4.8% for iron ore. They had to learn from figures. Even in the ideal case of a concerted economy of our States we could not control the variations of world market prices having only a limited influence on these prices.

This was one more reason to devote all our efforts to obtain a large economic field, for the circulation of our products and to succeed in establishing an organized exchange zone. They had to be aware of their collective power and they had to put into motion, by stages, the bodies of a development policy harmonized beyond narrow frontiers. Their force lay in the confidence of the people for an Organization of this nature. They should trust Africa's creative force. Economic and

political problems were interdependent. Political independence would be an illusion if it were not backed by economic independence. The delegates enumerated afterwards, three distinct problems to be examined :

- The preparation of the UNO Conference for Trade and Development in 1964 : he felt the Note of the Secretariat was sufficiently exhaustive to become a basic document serving to avoid lengthy discussions.
- The African Common Market, which must become the subject of a distinct resolution, at least concerning the principle of its establishment.
- The social problems.

The Delegate of Guinea concluded saying that the economy of the XXth century was in continuous progress. The rearrangement of social bodies was emphasized. They had to choose if progress and rearrangement were to be carried out by us or against them. He felt that they should carry it out themselves.

Mr. SANI (Nigeria) said although the discussion had been on item 3, the Chairman had indicated earlier that leaders of Delegations had agreed that general statements should be eliminated and that those should go to the appropriate Committee. He sought the Chairman's direction as to the particular item under discussion. The Chairman had ruled that speeches should be limited to five minutes, but some distinguished speakers had exceeded that time.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the discussion concerned item 3 of the agenda of the Commission.

Mr. B. BAKRI (Sudan) on a point of order suggested that the meeting should return to its original position. There was the long-term problem of the future of Africa and there was the short-term problem arising from the necessity for a co-ordinated policy in the forthcoming Conference on International Trade and Development. He therefore suggested that the meeting should return to Committee level to try to reach a compromise approach on those problems.

The representative of Mali expressed his interest in the Note of the General Secretariat and thanked the Rapporteur. But this report he added was only a foundation for work and the problems raised should be studied by a committee which would have to examine thoroughly all their aspects

The points on which Mali wished to have a thorough study were : (page 16, paragraph V). They should carefully examine the problem of price parity in the international trade. In the last 30 years the gap between agricultural products and industrial products was steadily increasing. The prices of the industrial products were rising and the prices of agricultural products were dropping! The industrial prices were established by the developed countries. The African agricultural producer watching these prices being fixed, excluding him, was thus wronged. They should set up a technical report on this subject to be able in future to successfully face the world market.

Page 17, paragraph VI: Protection of growing local industries should be ensured. This protection existed on the European market. They should insist on it on the American and Eastern markets.

Paragraph VIII : With regard to GATT they had to state that they had joined it indirectly. They were colonialized countries; thus associated to the colonizing country which had joined GATT. GATT as it was now, was no longer meeting the present situation. It now existed on its own besides the industrial countries and the developing countries. The report had to state this point.

Paragraph X : They should indeed liberalize trade within their own countries. They had to build the African Common Market. But the solidarity of all countries was necessary. This liberalization should not be of benefit to certain countries only.

Mr. MOHAMED ALY AMER (United Arab Republic) commented that time was passing and his Delegation did not know how work was to proceed on items 2, 3 and 4 of the agenda. How were those to be distributed among the two Committees ?

The CHAIRMAN thought the discussion had brought out the importance of item 3 which was conditioning the entire economic life of the African Continent.

In respect of the Common Market and GATT, he thought that definite stands ought to be taken, but that those should not be one-way only.

The help should not be one-sided and, for the first stage, one had to accept the protection of the developed countries for financial reasons. Regarding item 1(c) of the agenda, the CHAIRMAN asked the heads of delegations to designate members of the two Sub-Committees.

Mr. MOHAMED ALY AMER (United Arab Republic) said he understood that the original proposal of the Liberian representative had been that work programmes and priorities, items 2 and 4, should be dealt with by Committee 1, and that Committee 2 should deal with item 3.

The ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL said the suggestion of the Liberian representative, which appeared to have been wholly acceptable to the Commission, was that Committee I should study work programmes and priorities, i.e. item 1(i) and Committee II should study item 2 and item 1 (ii), resolutions and recommendations.

Mr. A.R. HORTON (Liberia) clarified his earlier proposal that Committee 1 designated as the Committee on work programmes and priorities should handle items 2 and 4; and Committee II should handle item 3. Items 5, 6, 7 and 8 should be handled by the Plenary Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Sub-Committee 1 should study items 2 and 4 on the agenda and Sub-Committee II item 3 of the agenda. He further proposed that items 5, 6 and 7 should be discussed afterwards in Plenary Session.

It was so decided.

The meeting adjourned at 18.10 p.m.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
held in the National Assembly,
Niamey, on Friday, 13 December 1963, at 10.p.m.

The CHAIRMAN, in accordance with the agenda, passed to Item 5: Report of Sub-Committees; and gave the floor, first, to the Rapporteur of Sub-Committee 1, the Representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Habib CHERIF read the Draft Resolution ECOS/16/D/RMS.2/1. Item 3 of the Resolution did not appear in the French text and was read by him:

ARTICLE III

Establishment of priorities

"Conscious of the importance of priorities, mentioned under Item 2, the Commission recommended the Acting Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to take all necessary steps and measures leading to their implementation in the shortest possible time .

The Acting Secretary of the Organization of African Unity was invited to present, at the next Session of the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU a detailed report on the realisation of these priorities".

H.E. Mr. Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) proposed that the Report on work programmes and priorities, as now submitted by the Rapporteur, be adopted.

Mr. Gerard G.N. NSUBUGA (Uganda) seconded the proposal.

Mr. Mohamed Aly AMER (UAR) moved to record in the Minutes his delegation's view that the document should include a provision as a new para. 6 for "the setting up of an African Postal Union for all African territories" and that it be amended accordingly.

Mr. Hubert THABENE (Cameroon) on a point of order pointed out that the preparation of the resolution in its existing form had taken much time. Now delegates were turning back to resume discussions already concluded. Acceptance of this late amendment would compel the Commission to accept other amendments, also.

Mr. Mohamed Aly AMER (UAR) while agreeing in principle with the view of the Cameroon Representative, said the Chairman apparently had overlooked his endeavour to intervene earlier.

Mr. Conte SAIDOU (Guinea), supporting the point of order, said the draft now submitted had been adopted by the Sub-Committee on which all delegations were represented; and he invited the delegation of UAR to withdraw its amendment.

The CHAIRMAN said the text ought to be adopted without amendment, although in fact the Rules permitted the submission of amendments in the Plenary Session; but he asked that the amendment be withdrawn.

Mr. MOHAMED ALY AMER (UAR) agreed to withdraw his amendment in order to facilitate the Commission's work; but he regretted to absence of any reference in the document to the African Postal Union.

Draft Resolution No. 2 was put to a vote, and adopted

The Rapporteur of Sub-Committee 1 read the draft resolution ECOS/18/D/RES.4(1) on social and labour problems incorporating a minor correction: "suggests the setting-up of a section of the General Secretariat charged with examining and promoting African policy on labour and social questions. This section's qualification will be ..".

Draft Resolution No. 4 was put to a vote, and adopted.

The Rapporteur of Sub-Committee I read draft resolution ECOS/19/D/RES.5(1) on Youth Organisation. He pointed out that in line 2 the word "Niger" should be added after the words "in Ordinary Session in Niamey"; and that in para. 6 the words "each two years" should be replaced by "every two years".

Mr. TADJO (Ivory Coast) proposed the deletion of the reference, in parenthesis, to "Boy Scouts, pioneer movement etc." He asked that if his proposal was not acceptable, his reservation should appear in the Minutes.

Mr. Hubert THABENE (Cameroon) suggested that if the Representative of the Ivory Coast wished to retain the general sense of the text it should satisfy him as it stood. Movements of this kind were very general in character.

The Representative of Mali in his capacity of co-author of the draft resolution said the text was based on the original document produced in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Bashir BAKRI (Sudan) Chairman of Committee I, asked for the floor on a point of order. He pointed out that the Draft under discussion had not been formally adopted by his Sub-Committee but annexed to other drafts for submission as a Working Paper. In the Sub-Committee there had been no objection to the text.

H.E. Mr. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) proposed the adoption of the resolution as a whole. Youth movements were part of the African drive for progress and there should be co-operation in that field in the same way as Governments were co-operating, he declared.

Mr. TADJO (Ivory Coast) said if it was the view of Heads of Delegations that "Scout Movement" could be considered as a generic term, he would yield; but being insufficiently informed on this aspect, he would prefer deletion of this reference.

Mr. Jean POISSON (Niger), while sharing the concern expressed by the Ivory Coast Representative, felt that such an important resolution should not be overlooked because of one word and would support its acceptance with or without amendment although he preferred the text as it stood.

Mr. TJANDO (Togo) approved the reference to the Scout Movement but felt that the term "Pioneer Movement" ought not to be referred to until some special commission had studied its aims. Therefore the words "Pioneer Movement" should be deleted.

The Representative of Nigeria supported the view of the Ivory Coast Delegation that the term should be deleted.

Mr. Hubert THABENE (Cameroon) preferred the suggestion of the Ethiopian Delegation and favoured leaving the wording in general terms, because it was difficult to define precisely the criteria of youth movements.

The Representative of Mali proposed deletion of the entire quotation so that the second paragraph of the draft would read: "to harmonise and co-ordinate the various cultural activities and open-air youth movements of any kind".

The Draft Resolution, as amended, was adopted.

All the Draft Resolutions of Sub-Committee I were thus adopted.

Mr. Habib CHERIF (Tunisia), Rapporteur of Committee I, expressed his satisfaction at the adoption of his Committee's resolutions and paid tribute to the Acting Secretary-General, the Secretariat and all who had assisted in the work of his Committee.

Pan-African Postal Union

Mr. MOHAMED Aly AMER (UAR) extended a formal invitation to Delegations to participate in the Conference of African Postal Administrators to be held in Cairo in January, 1964.

The Chairman formally noted the invitation.

Mr. Albert NYEMBO (Congo, Leopoldville) read the Memorandum submitted by his Delegation for the benefit of Members of the OAU.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Nyembo for his contribution.

The Chairman gave the floor to the Rapporteur of Committee II.

The Representative of Ghana, as Rapporteur of the Committee, noted that it had been requested to deal with Item 3, the United Nations Conference on International Trade and Development, with a view to co-ordinating the policies of African countries. He then presented the Draft Resolution ECOS/12/D/RES(1) and drew attention to various textual corrections.

Mr. A.R. HORTON (Liberia) said his Delegation had a particular interest in the substance of the resolution and had participated actively in the discussions. He felt safe in proposing that the resolution be adopted by the Plenary Session.

Mr. G.G.N. NSUBUGA (Uganda) proposed a textual amendment to the second paragraph of the preamble which contained a quotation from para. 6 of the Resolution on Economic Co-operation adopted by the Conference of African Heads of State at Addis Ababa. This was incorrectly quoted and should read :

"RECALLING that the African Heads of State and Government ..
had urged all States concerned to undertake negotiations so
that developing countries may derive greater revenue from
international trade"

The Acting Secretary-General undertook to quote the original text in full in the final document.

Mr. MOHAMED ALY AMER (UAR) proposed, in para. 2, to substitute the word "attitudes" for "policies"; to add after the word "reciprocity": "for such preferences in their trade with developing countries", and to add, in the third recommendation, after "reciprocal treatment" : "and other adequate measures aimed specifically at the protection of infant industries".

At the request of the UAR Delegation, the Acting Secretary-General read operative para. 2(iv).

H.E. Mr. Ondalkachew MAKONNEN questioned the necessity of the amendments proposed to the sub para on page 3 of the Draft and asked that it should not be pressed at this late stage.

Mr. MOHAMED Aly AMER (UAR) proposed as an alternative text "to take measures which would lead". It was a question of deciding not on policies but on common stand, he said.

The Acting Secretary-General indicated that this text was acceptable.

The Draft Resolution, as amended, was adopted.

Date and place of next meeting

The Meeting proceeded to discuss the date and place of the next Meeting of the Commission.

The Chairman pointed out that under the Rules a Meeting must be held once within every year.

Mr. MOHAMED Aly AMER (UAR), on behalf of his country, then formally invited the Commission to hold its next Meeting in Cairo. The invitation was accepted with acclamation.

The Chairman raised the question of timing, the date being anticipated as December.

Mr. MOHAMED Aly AMER (UAR) proposed the latter part of December.

Mr. Habib CHERIF (Tunisia) opposed the suggestion and pointed out the difficulty that many representatives of African countries would have UN commitments about that time. He favoured a meeting in January.

Mr. Conte SAIDOU (Guinea) supported the view of Tunisia, as did Mr. Hubert THABENE (Cameroon) who said many people would wish to be at home during this important holiday period.

The Representative of Mali feared that delegations might find working conditions difficult in Cairo at a holiday period.

Mr. G.G.N.NSUBUGA (Uganda) asked whether it might not be necessary to have a meeting immediately after the UN Conference on International Trade and Development, preceding the next meeting of the Commission.

After further discussion it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Commission should be held in Cairo , some time in December 1964 without fixing a date.

Closing addresses

Mr. A.R. HORTON (Liberia) paid tribute to the perfection of hospitality and friendship extended to the Conference by the Government and people of Niger. He congratulated the Acting Secretary-General, the Vice-Chairmen and the Secretariat staff whose hard work and long hours had contributed so greatly to the success of the Conference. In the name of the Conference he asked that the thanks and appreciation of all Delegations present be conveyed to the President of the Republic of Niger for his gracious blessing, which had been an inspiration to all.

The ultimate goal, African Unity and full development of the continent, would demand patience, effort and self-sacrifice, dedicated hearts and enlightened minds; but he believed those goals would all be reached and that an African brotherhood would emerge, free and sovereign, peaceful and prosperous.

H.E. Mr. Endalkachew MAKONNEN (Ethiopia) seconded the vote of thanks.

Mr. A.R. AMONOO (Ghana) declared his confidence that when all these efforts were implemented Africa would stand united, strong and prosperous, under one Government.

The Chairman then delivered his closing address.

The Meeting ended at 1.05 a.m.
on Saturday, 14 December,

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Gentlemen,

We have now come to the end of the work of this first Session of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity, and it already seems possible to educe many lessons from this first meeting which aimed at the concretion of African Unity in the economic and social field.

First of all, while thanking once more the Governments of the Member States of OAU who agreed to the Republic of Niger's suggestion that NIAMEY should be chosen as the venue of this meeting, I regret that unexpected breakdowns in the air transport services prevented some delegations from arriving in time. This led to an initial delay in the effective start of our work and it was subsequently difficult to make up the leeway.

Similarly, it is to us a matter of great regret that implementation of the Summit Conference's recommendations on the holding of a meeting of the Preparatory Committee should have been impeded by physical difficulties. Such a meeting would have made it possible to proceed to a first review of the agenda and expedite preparation of many questions.

Having said this, I am all the happier to note that despite these unfavourable factors it has been possible to make progress in all sectors of the Economic and Social Commission's activities.

In the first place, under the impulse of the Acting Secretary General, to whose work I wish, on behalf of all delegations, to pay public tribute, its very new international organization has successfully withstood this first test thus proving its ability to meet the growing needs of the immediate future.

Secondly, the agenda delegated to us by the ADDIS ABABA resolutions could not, obviously, be examined in detail because of the number and importance of the items it contained. We have, however, been able to

make a complete inventory of the problems referred to us and, in the light of studies which have already been or are being made by the Economic Commission for Africa, to define the nature of our collaboration with the Organization and with other international bodies.

In addition, the establishment of necessary priorities provides an effective framework for pursuit of the Economic and Social Commissions work during the coming months. Speaking now as Chief of the Delegation of NIGER, I am particularly satisfied to note that first place on the work programme on economic affairs has been given to the harmonization and co-ordination of national development plans. Thus, the essential and urgent nature of this problem, which the Government of Niger was first to recognize and to examine in co-operation with all West African States, is formally acknowledged and its existence at continental level widely publicized.

I think, moreover, that on the other matters considered, the work programme excellently defines the essential point of each problem which we must unceasingly pursue.

To this preparation for the forthcoming activities of the Commission was added, as an immediate task, the definition of a common position of the African States as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development approaches.

The results obtained in this respect alone would suffice to prove the success of this first session. Faced with the complex and difficult problems of the restructuralization of international trade, the interventions of all delegations were marked by a deep awareness of the problems and a well determined desire to obtain solutions which will finally give the developing countries equal opportunities in the international community.

I believe that in these conditions and after the establishment of a common denominator to trends which inevitably called for constructive harmonization, the great economic test of the year can be tackled at Geneva with all necessary cohesion and effectiveness thus manifesting at international level the economic solidarity established between all our States.

Finally, if I wished to characterize this work I would say that despite extraneous difficulties it has given our Commission an excellent start and manifested the leading role it can play both in OAU and in international economic institutions.

I should like to thank all delegations, and particularly their Chiefs, for the fraternal assistance they have afforded both the Chairman and the Secretariat in organizing these discussions and hope that, as the President of the Republic said, all NIGER's guest will, despite the simplicity of its welcome, leave NIAMEY with the memory of the warmth of its cordial hospitality.



RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMISSION OF THE OAU
held in Niamey, Niger, from 9 to 13 December 1963

ECOS/12/RES/1 (I)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ECOS/16/RES/2 (I)	Terms of Reference
ECOS/17/RES/3 (I)	Co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa
ECOS/18/RES/4 (I)	Social and Labour Problems
ECOS/19/RES/5 (I)	Youth Organizations
ECOS/20/RES/6 (I)	Special Resolution

ECOS/12/RES/1 (I)

13 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First Session

NIAMEY, DECEMBER 1963

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African
Unity meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 9 to 13 December, 1963;

Recalling that the African Heads of State and Government at the Addis
Ababa Conference, in paragraph 6 of the resolution on economic co-operation
had urged "all States concerned to conduct negotiations; in concert, with a
view to obtaining from the consumer countries real price stabilization and
guaranteed outlets on the world market so that the developing countries may
derive considerably greater revenue from international trade;"

Noting that the African Heads of State and Government had agreed to
support the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which is to
consider the problems of "international trade in relation with the economic
development of developing countries"

Endorsing the joint Declaration of the developing countries on inter-
national trade which was subsequently welcomed by the General Assembly of
the United Nations;

Considering the imminence and the vital importance of the United Nations
Conference on Trade and Development, the convening of which was decided by
Resolution 0963 (XXXVI) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council;

Convinced that the accelerated economic development of the developing
countries depends primarily upon a substantial increase of their share in
international trade as well as upon their ability to deserve stable and
equitable earnings from their exports of primary and processed products;

Taking into account the fact that in view of its extreme reliance on international trade and its much narrower range of primary commodities, Africa, more than any other developing region of the world, is seriously affected by the deterioration of the terms of trade and is therefore more liable to suffer from the fluctuations in its export earnings;

Conscious of the necessity to eliminate all obstacles, restrictions and discriminatory practices in world trade which have a particular impact on the necessary expansion and diversification of the exports of primary and processed products of the developing countries;

Conscious further of the benefits that will accrue to the African countries from co-ordinating their policies with a view to defining, in the long run, their trade problems and safeguarding their interests;

Aware of the unanimous determination of the African countries to extricate themselves from the economic dependence which still continues to characterize their relationships with the former colonial countries;

Noting the report of the United Nations Preparatory Committee on trade and development;

1. Expresses its conviction that the main objective of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be to define the elements of a better policy in the field of international economic co-operation so as to secure for the developing countries an optimum rate of economic growth;
2. Recommends to Member States of the Organization of African Unity to pursue jointly the following common positions :

- (i) Support all measures aimed at enabling the foreign exchange resources of developing countries to increase at a rate proportionate to the needs of their development.
- (ii) Urge the acceptance of the principle that the developed countries should, in any programme they adopt for reducing the barriers to trade, give priority to the trade needs of the developing countries. The developed countries should further accept the non-implementation of the principle of reciprocity in their trade with developing countries as well as adjustment of the most favoured nations clause.
- (iii) Urge further the acceptance by the developed countries the principle that the developing countries should be accorded preferential treatment, particularly in the protection of infant industries based on the recognition that even with a complete liberalization of trade the developing countries would not be in a position to compete on even terms with the industrialized countries.
- (iv) Appeal to the developed countries to take measures which would lead to the maximum utilization of primary commodities and obviate the harmful effects that may arise from the increased use of synthetic products.
- (v) Request the developed countries, jointly or separately, to have as an objective the abolition of all discrimination applicable to their imports from the developing countries.
- (vi) Recommend that the developing countries should liberalize and strengthen their trade and monetary relationships amongst themselves, with a view to setting up mutually beneficial trade agencies within the framework of integrated and co-ordinated programmes of action or development schemes.

- (vii) Recommend the co-ordination of plans for the development of transport and communications aimed at expanding continental and inter-continental trade.
- (viii) Urge in particular that the Conference should take concrete measures for the improvement of the terms of trade of the developing countries and the maintenance at equitable and remunerative levels of the relationships between prices of primary commodities and industrial goods.
- (ix) Consider the establishment of multi-commodity schemes for the stabilization of prices of primary commodities so that international arrangements for any given commodity not only take into account existing levels of production but also the potentialities and the alternative means of production over a wider spectrum of commodities.
- (x) Request that the existing institutional machineries in the field of international trade be reviewed and revised in order to create an international trade organization adjusted to meet the needs of the developing countries.
- (xi) Further request that the economic groupings formed by the industrialized countries should avoid taking any actions which might have an adverse effect on the economies of the developing countries.
- (xii) Support the setting up of an international machinery for the financing of the flow of trade of developing countries not only for their short term requirements, but also for the requirements of their long term development schemes.

ECOS/16/RES/2 (I)

13 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First Session

Niamey, December 1963

Terms of Reference

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 9 to 13 December 1963;

Convinced that co-operation and harmonization in economic and social fields must develop on a common basis for all African countries;

Determined to promote inter-African co-operation in economic and social fields on a continental scale;

Anxious to see all African States unite with a view to securing the well-being of their peoples;

Determined to secure as soon as possible an improvement in working conditions in the African countries;

Taking cognizance of the resolutions relating to co-operation in economic, social and labour matters adopted at the Summit Conference of African Independent States in Addis Ababa on the 25th of May 1963:

- A -

I. Resolves that the terms of Reference of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity be the Summit resolutions herein above referred, including, inter-alia:

1. In the field of co-operation in economic matters

- a) possibilities of creating a Free Trade Area in Africa;
- b) possibilities of setting up a joint external tariff with a view to protecting infant industries and developing a common fund of stabilization of prices of primary products;
- c) restructuralization of international trade;
- d) ways and means of developing trade among African States through the organization of African trade fairs and exhibitions together with the granting of transport and transit facilities;
- e) co-ordination of the means of transportation and setting-up of air, road and sea companies;
- f) setting-up of an African Payments and Clearing Union;
- g) gradual liberation of the national currencies from any external dependence (non-technical) and creation of an all-African monetary area;
- h) study of the ways and means of organizing the harmonization of national development schemes, both in the present and in the future.

2. In the field of social questions

- a) undertaking thorough studies on social and labour problems peculiar to the African Continent;
- b) establishing detailed programmes aimed at improving the social conditions and strengthening co-operation among African States, through, inter-alia:
 - i) exchanges in the fields of social and labour legislations;
 - ii) the setting-up of an African Organization of Youth;

- iii) the creation of a Scouts African Union and the setting-up of a continental yearly jamborees;
- iv) the organization of yearly African Olympic games;
- v) the organization of vocational training periods for African workers;
- vi) the creation of an African Trade Union

- B -

Programme of work and Priorities

Conscious of the need for joint and progressive actions in the fields enumerated in the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission of O.A.U.

II. Resolves that the Commission examine economic problems relating to the following points:

1. Setting-up of a free trade area among Member States;
2. Standardization of a common external tariff among Member States;
3. Organization of African fairs and exhibitions for Member States;
4. Establishment of African internal conventions on transport and communications by land, sea and air;
5. Creation of an African telecommunications union of the African continent as a whole;
6. Problems of payment agreements;
7. Creation of a payment and clearing union between African States;
8. Setting-up of a monetary zone and of a central bank of issue;
9. Co-ordination and harmonization of national development plans.

III. Further, Decides to give priority to the following questions:

1. Harmonization and co-ordination of national development plans starting with the scientific study of the means required for this purpose;
2. Setting-up of a free trade area, through investigation of appropriate measures to achieve standardization and harmonization of customs techniques and procedures;
3. Study of the problems of payment agreements amongst African countries until the setting-up of an African payments and clearing union;
4. Effective co-operation in the field of transport by land, sea and air, through the establishment of African companies or organizations;
5. Setting-up of an African Telecommunications Union for all African countries.

- C -

ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITIES THUS DECIDED UPON

IV. Furthermore, Noting the importance of these priorities; Urges the Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity to take every necessary measure to implement these priorities in the immediate future;

V. Requests the Secretariat to submit at the next session of the Economic and Social Commission a detailed report on the setting-up of these priorities.

ECOS/17/RES/3 (I)

13 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First Session

Niamey, December 1963

Co-operation with the Economic Commission
for Africa

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 9 to 13 December 1963;

RECALLING that the primary purpose of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity under Article II of the Charter is to co-ordinate and intensify the efforts of African countries to achieve a better life for their people;

RECALLING further that the United Nations Organization has likewise created the Economic Commission for Africa to assist African countries to achieve similar economic and social objectives, and to promote and strengthen the economic relations of African countries among themselves as well as with the other countries of the world;

CONSIDERING that the Conference of Heads of State and Government, in its resolution on the problems of economic co-operation, has invited Economic Commission for Africa to grant to the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity such support and assistance which the Commission might need in carrying out its terms of reference;

NOTING that the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity is basically a policy-making and executive body while the role of Economic Commission for Africa is generally limited to technical and advisory functions;

CONSIDERING that the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity has been taking note of the contributions made by the various international agencies and recognising in particular the progress achieved by Economic Commission for Africa in the various economic and social fields since its inception;

1. Decides to set up close co-operation on complementary basis between the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa and the Specialized Agencies of the U.N.O.
2. Requests Economic Commission for Africa to proceed with its studies and investigations with a view, inter alia:

(A) IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD

- (a) To contribute to the encouragement of inter-African trade with particular reference to studying ways and means of the gradual elimination of obstacles to the development of this trade;
- (b) To contribute towards the harmonization of the industrial and agricultural policies and the co-ordination of the development plans;
- (c) To undertake studies for the development and streamlining of the various means of transportation in co-operation with the other specialized agencies;
- (d) To make efforts with a view to developing production and consumption of electric power by making the most of the possibilities of co-operation between Member States.

(B) IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

- (a) to concentrate its efforts on the problems of organization and operation of the social welfare services for urban and rural areas;

- (b) To undertake the establishment and development of vocational training facilities and to increase employment in all fields thereof;
 - (c) To assist in finding appropriate solutions to urbanisation and housing problems in Africa.
3. Asks the Member States to invite the Economic Commission for Africa, at its 6th Session, to pay particular attention to the study of the problems foreseen in the Programme of Work and Priorities of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity.

ECOS/18/RES/4 (I)

13 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First Session

Niamey, December 1963

SOCIAL AND LABOUR PROBLEMS

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Niamey from 9 to 13 December, 1963;

CONSIDERING the imperative necessity for Africa to have a balanced and harmonious economic and social development;

CONVINCED that any social policy in Africa should aim at the improvement of the standard of living of the peoples, and the safeguarding of their dignity;

SUGGESTS that an African Labour Office be established within the Secretariat charged with the study and promotion of an African labour and social policy whose mandate would be:

1. To promote contacts among African states in form of seminars, exchange of experts and information.
2. To undertake thorough studies of problems concerning labour and industrial relations.
3. To harmonize the various labour legislations and to set up a manpower planning body.
4. To frame a social security scheme with a view to protecting the worker and his family.
5. To promote a policy of vocational training and adult education on an African or regional scale.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
First Session
Niamey, December 1963

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 9 to 13 December, 1963;

TAKING COGNIZANCE of the existence of an all-African Organization of Youth and an African Olympic Games body within the Cultural and Sports Meeting of African Youth;

1. EXPRESSES THE WISH that these African Organizations of Youth be placed under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity;
2. REQUESTS all the African States to have their youth participate in these Organizations;
3. CALLS FOR an immediate resumption of the "All-African Organization" on the basis of this increased participation of African youth;
4. URGES the all-African Youth Organization thus resuscitated organize an African Cultural and Artistic Festival every second year as from 1966;
5. REQUESTS that the all-African Youth Organization be entrusted with:
 - (a) The promotion of all-African Students' Union;
 - (b) The harmonization and co-ordination of the various cultural activities and the Youth Open Air Educational Movement (Boy-Scouts, pioneer movements);
 - (c) The organization of inter-African and international youth work camps for voluntary work.

ECOS/20/RBS/6 (I)

13 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First Session

Niamey, December 1963

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity meeting in Niamey, Niger, from 9 to 13 December, 1963;

Taking Note of the preparations and efforts made by the Government of Niger to organize the first meeting of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity;

Deeply Touched by the hearty and friendly reception and hospitality extended to its guests by the Government of Niger;

Expresses its most sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Niger, His Excellency Mr. DIORI HAMANI, the Government and the people of Niger whose co-operation contributed largely to the success of this first meeting of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY

COMPOSITION

Rule 1

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity is composed of the Ministers concerned or other Ministers or Plenipotentiaries designated by the Government of Member States.

Rule 2

The Economic and Social Commission is responsible to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, and forwards its documents to the Assembly through the medium of the Council of Ministers.

FUNCTIONS

Rule 3

- (i) It is charged with the study of all questions of economic and social matters affecting Member States and with the proposal of adequate solutions;
- (ii) It takes cognisance of any question referred to it by the Assembly and the Council of Ministers;
- (iii) It promotes inter-African co-operation in economic and social matters in accordance with the directives of the Assembly and the Council of Ministers.

REPRESENTATION

Rule 4

Each Government shall be represented on the Commission by a Delegation led by the Minister concerned or other Ministers or by a plenipotentiary designated by the Government.

Rule 5

The Government of each Member State shall communicate to the Commission in advance through the Administrative Secretary-General the list of its duly accredited members of delegation.

ORDINARY SESSIONS

Rule 6

The Economic and Social Commission shall meet once a year, in ... At its annual session, it shall consider and approve, inter alia, its programme and budget for the next Fiscal Year.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS

Rule 7

At the request of a Member State and subject to the agreement of two-thirds of the Members, the Commission shall meet in Extraordinary Session.

PLACE OF MEETING

Rule 8

The Sessions of the Commission shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization or at such other places as the Commission may decide by simple majority.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Rule 9

All meetings of the Commission shall be held in public; but the Commission may decide by simple majority whether any of its meetings shall be private.

WORKING LANGUAGES

Rules 10

The working languages of the Commission shall be, if possible African languages, French and English.

CHAIRMANSHIP, ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

Rule 11

The Commission shall, at the commencement of each session, elect by secret ballot and simple majority, a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and two Rapporteurs whose terms of office shall terminate at the commencement of the next Ordinary Session. These officers are not eligible for re-election until all other representatives have held office.

Rule 12

The Chairman opens and closes the meetings, submits for approval the records of the meetings, directs the debates, grants the use of the floor, submits to a vote matters under discussion, announces the results of votes, rules on points of order in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

VACANCY OR ABSENCE

Rule 13

In case of vacancy or absence of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen shall act in his place in turn.

AGENDA

Rule 14

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Administrative Secretary-General and communicated to Member States at least thirty days before the opening of the Ordinary Session.

Rule 15

The provisional agenda of an Ordinary Session shall comprise, in particular :

- (i) the report of the Administrative Secretary-General ;
- (ii) items which the Assembly decides to place on the agenda of the Commission;
- (iii) items which the Council decides to place on the agenda;
- (iv) items which the Commission decides to place on its agenda;
- (v) items proposed by Member States;
- (vi) other business.

Rule 16

The agenda of an Extraordinary Session convened by the Administrative Secretary-General at the request of a Member State, provided this request has been approved by the required two-thirds majority in accordance with Rule 7, shall be communicated fifteen days at least before the opening of the Session.

Rule 17

The agenda of an Extraordinary Session shall comprise only items submitted for consideration in the request for convening the Extraordinary Session.

QUORUM AND DEBATES

Rule 18

A quorum shall be made up of two-thirds of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity.

Rule 19

No representative shall have the floor without the consent of the Chairman. The Chairman shall grant the use of the floor in the order in which it has been requested. He can call to order any representative when his statement is not relevant to the matter under discussion.

RESOLUTIONS

Rule 20

Proposed resolutions, motions or amendments shall be presented in writing to the Administrative Secretary-General who shall circulate copies to representatives. However, the Commission may authorize the discussion of a proposal not previously distributed. Proposed resolutions and motions shall be examined in the order of their submission.

A motion or a proposed resolution may be withdrawn by the original mover prior to its being submitted to the vote. Any representative may reintroduce a motion or proposed resolution that has been withdrawn.

POINTS OF ORDER

Rule 21

During the debate, a representative may raise a point of order and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote and decided by simple majority.

A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

TIME LIMIT

Rule 22

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker on any question. On procedural questions, the Chairman shall limit each intervention to a maximum of five minutes. When debate is limited and a representative exceeds his allotted time, the Chairman shall call him to order without delay.

CLOSING OF LIST OF SPEAKERS

Rule 23

During the course of a debate the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Commission, declare the list closed. The Chairman may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if, in his opinion, a speech delivered after he has declared the list closed makes this desirable.

CLOSURE OF DEBATE

Rule 24

When a matter has been sufficiently discussed, any representative may move the closure of the debate. Two representatives may speak in favour of the motion and two against the motion, after which the motion shall be considered approved if it has a simple majority in its favour. When the debate on an item is concluded because there are no other speakers, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

ADJOURNMENT OF DEBATE

Rule 25

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative may speak in favour and one against the motion after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

SUSPENSION OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted, and they shall be immediately put to the vote.

ORDER OF PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Rule 27

Subject to Rule 21, the following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting :

- (i) to suspend the meeting;
- (ii) to adjourn the meeting;
- (iii) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- (iv) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

VOTING RIGHTS

Rule 28

Each Member State shall have one vote.

MAJORITY REQUIRED

Rule 29

All resolutions shall be determined by simple majority of the members of the Commission present and voting.

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

Rule 30

After the debate has been closed, the Chairman shall immediately put to the vote resolution with all amendments. The vote shall not be interrupted except on a point of order related to the manner in which the vote is taking place.

VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

Rule 31

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal,

the Commission shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote. If one or several amendments are adopted, the amended proposal is then put to the vote. If no amendments are adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form. A proposal is considered as an amendment to a text if it adds or removes parts therefrom or modifies it.

VOTE ON SEPARATE PARTS OF A PROPOSAL

Rule 32

Parts of a proposal, resolution or a motion shall be voted on separately when so requested. If this is done, the text resulting from a series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of a proposed resolution or motion have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

METHOD OF VOTING AND EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Rule 33

Votes will be taken by raising the hand, but any representative may request a roll-call vote which shall be taken in the alphabetical order of the names of the Members beginning with the State whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman. After a vote any representative may request the use of the floor to explain his vote. The vote is announced by the Chairman.

Rule 34

There shall be a secret vote for elections and also in such special circumstances as the Commission may determine by simple majority.

Rule 35

In the event of equality of votes in issues other than elections, the proposal is deemed to be rejected.

COMMITTEES

Rule 36

The Commission may establish such ad hoc committees and temporary working groups as it may deem necessary.

AMENDMENTS

Rule 37

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Commission by simple majority of its Members subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers.

ECOS/3

10 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First Session

Niamey, December 1963

STATEMENT BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

ATO KIFLE WODAJO

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity is meeting for the first time. Thus a unique and historic opportunity is afforded us to think about the future of inter-African cooperation in the field of economic and social activities. More specifically this is a time when we should address our minds to defining the scope of this Commission's activities and its specific role in the system of inter-African cooperation now developing within the Organization of African Unity.

True, the Charter of the Organization has laid down principles for, and a broad framework within which inter-African cooperation, in economic and social fields could develop. These in themselves are not, however, sufficient. They are too broad to give practical guidance as to what the activities of the Commission should or should not be. What has been provided for in the Charter is, at best, a statement of objectives.

Very soon we will have to think in terms of programmes; and when we think of programmes we have to think, in the final analysis, in terms of resources - human and material. It seems that, much as we like to develop programmes on all fronts of economic and social cooperation, we have to start in this Commission with the recognition of the limitation of our resources. Out of realism and necessity we have to be selective in developing programmes and projects, selective both as to the timing of their initiation and to the nature of the projects themselves.

Because of the unique history and nature of the Organization, it may be that there are certain functions which this Commission is better suited to assume. Due regard must also be given to the activities of the other international institutions with a view to complementing or otherwise strengthening their efforts.

The tempo of development of the Commission's activities should march hand in hand with increases in our resources. To do otherwise would be courting disaster. We in this Commission can meet from time to time and pass high sounding and pious resolutions, exhortations on the importance of communication,

industrialisation, science and technology to economic development. By now all these and similar propositions should be self-evident. Rather, what should concern us most of all should be the development of programmes of cooperation. If we substitute words and promises for limited programmes of actions which we can implement to the benefit of all, we shall be deluding no one but ourselves.

It is because of these considerations that the Secretariat has deemed it useful, perhaps at the risk of being presumptuous, to submit a Memorandum touching on some of these questions. This Memorandum does not pretend to be exhaustive. At best it aims to provoke thinking and some preliminary decisions on what the nature of the Commission should be. It is obvious for all to see that we cannot in the present session possibly have useful discussion on all the items appearing on the provisional agenda. A useful discussion on these items would have required on the part of the Secretariat a more elaborate preparation than it is capable to undertake at present. These items are taken in their entirety from the Summit resolutions on economic and social problems. At this stage they should be merely considered as indications as to what lies ahead for the Commission to tackle. If by the end of this session the Commission succeeds in arriving at preliminary guide lines as to the direction of the Commission's activities, it shall have made significant progress.

One possible exception in this regard is the item relating to the co-ordination of the positions of the African countries in the forthcoming U.N. Conference on International Trade and Development. As a continent, relying more heavily on a narrower range of primary commodities for its income than any other - and thus likewise being more adversely affected by worsening of the terms of trade - the importance of international trade to Africa can hardly be too strongly emphasised. In a world where imbalance between the supply of raw materials and the demand for them is increasingly becoming a problem, Africa, due to its late start as a producer of raw materials on a large commercial basis, is

In danger of being severely limited in its potentialities for further production of the same or other types of commodities. In view of the imminence of the World Conference and the unique opportunity afforded us by the present session, it would be extremely useful if African countries were in a position to co-ordinate their policies in that Conference. In this connection the Secretariat humbly submits a Memorandum in the hope that it could be useful.

The Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity has twin purposes: it is designed to promote at one and the same time inter-African co-operation in economic and social matters thereby laying strong foundations for African unity, and to contribute to the efficient development of the African countries by tapping the benefits of the economy of scale. Most of us are today so much disposed as a matter of habit to think of African Unity in terms of political ideals that we are not sufficiently aware of the force with which the imperative of economic necessities are operating. As time goes by, it is inevitable that the idealistic fervour for political unity which is such an integral part of the common experience of living under and fighting against colonial domination will subside. In its wake the hard, cruel facts of economic imperatives will operate independently for African Unity.

Today in Africa, with its population of 260 million, only eight independent States have more than 10 million inhabitants while the majority of them are inhabited by less than 5 million. There are about thirty-five Customs areas and twenty-six currencies in seven major groups. No economist worth his salt can seriously suggest that the great majority of us, with such small bases of population, fragmented as we are into so many anomalous political units, could make a going concern of economic development however much we may try. As we are, the forces of the economy of scale will work adversely against us. Sooner or later we have to think in terms of organising our efforts and

pooling our resources. Even in Europe, where there are a number of small prosperous States, they have found it extremely difficult to compete with the modern giants; hence the Common Market. No-one, for example, could speak anywhere in Africa of meaningful industrialisation without recognising the necessity for creating regional markets, cutting across political boundaries and large enough to be capable of supporting such programmes of industrialisation. The logic of unity and co-operation is so inextricably linked with efficient economic development that no-one can seriously suggest that there can be economic development in Africa without some kind of economic integration.

Finally, much could have been said about Africa's general and unique economic problems. It is hardly necessary to point out here that most of these problems are similar to those which confront the majority of mankind in the under-developed parts of the world. They are all too familiar for me to have to point them out here. Suffice for us to ponder over the fact that of all the under-developed parts of the world, Africa as a whole remains the least developed. Per capita income is the lowest in the world and the rate of illiteracy, for example, is twice the average for the world. Just as Africa is the least developed among even the under-world, it has the furthest to travel. Perhaps this knowledge might double our determination.

My last duty is more than a formality, because it comes from deeply-felt sentiments. First and foremost, I have to thank the President of the Republic of Niger who has done us a great honour by addressing to us words of wisdom. We have to ponder over these things and be guided by them.

I cannot also close my statement without publicly recognising the invaluable assistance the Secretariat has received from the Government of Niger. I believe I owe it to all delegations here to inform them that the Government of Niger is bearing the

major portion of the expenses for this Conference. The Economic Commission for Africa, and its Executive Secretary, have gone beyond the call of duty to help us. The reports before this Commission are a testimony of their help.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I should pay my due respects to you and to your colleagues in the Bureau. Under your guidance, I am sure, we shall have fruitful discussions and arrive at results we all want.

ECOS/4

9 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
First Session
Niamey, December 1963

MEMORANDUM BY THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN INTER-AFRICAN CO-OPERATION

Memorandum by the Acting Secretary-General
on the Role of the Economic and Social Commission of the
Organization of African Unity in Inter-African Co-operation

1. In the field of economic and social co-operation Article II, paragraph 1 (b), of the Charter of African Unity sets out as one of the purposes of the Organization the following :

" to co-ordinate and intensify (their) co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa."

Further, paragraph 2 (b) of the same article specifically stipulates that African States shall co-ordinate and harmonize their general policies in the field of "economic co-operation, including transport and communications."

2. Article XX of the Charter provides for the establishment of an "Economic and Social Commission."

Reference is particularly made in this connexion to the resolutions, copies of which are attached hereto, passed by the last Conference of African Heads of State and Government on matters of economic and social co-operation. It is to be observed that almost all of the items appearing on the provisional agenda of this session are items recommended by these resolutions.

Note should also be taken of the fact that, notwithstanding these resolutions, no meetings of the Preparatory Committees as envisaged in the resolutions were held; it is assumed that delegations already know the reason for this, as the Provisional Secretary-General in a circular Note sent to all member States already informed them of the "impracticability" of holding these meetings of the Preparatory Committees. The Note reads in part :

" The Provisional Secretariat would like to explain that, in accordance with the above-quoted part of the resolution - reference is to the appended resolutions - the Head of State and Government did not name the countries who would constitute the Preparatory Committee(s). Furthermore, the First Session

of the Council of Ministers decided that the Economic and Social Commission, along with the other Specialized Commissions of the Organization, should meet before February 28th 1964; this was well in advance of the time originally anticipated for the first meetings of the Commissions. The latter decisions, as you will have observed from the provisional agenda - a copy of which you have already received - will undoubtedly permit the first meeting of the Commission to hold immediate discussions on some of the problems enumerated in the resolution. Additionally, the Expert Committee set up to assist the Provisional Secretariat has actively participated in the drawing up of the provisional agenda.

Under these circumstances, the Provisional Secretary-General did not deem it useful, nor possible, to convene a meeting of the Preparatory Committee before the first session of the Economic and Social Commission."

3. At these initial stages in the life of our Organization, it is only natural that the Commission should address itself to the task of determining its specific role and scope of activities. Such a determination of the role and the scope of the Commission's activities has to be based on the recognition that Africa's resources, both financial and human, are limited and much as one would like to see co-operation on all fronts of economic and social activities, one simply cannot hope to cover all of them, let alone accomplish all that is desired. Of necessity, one has to be selective.

The selective process in turn has to be based on appreciation of what the Commission could effectively do in the immediate years ahead. Granted that Africa's resources will have to remain limited for some time to come, because of the special character as the one African institution having to rely mostly or exclusively on African resources and spanning the width and breadth of the continent, the Commission has in the present session, to ask itself in what areas of economic and social co-operation it could be most useful. The consideration of what is "most useful" in this context has to be necessarily relative.

The paradox is that the state of inter-African co-operation in any field of human endeavour is such that any programme for economic and social co-operation could indeed appear useful. The question to ask, therefore, is : given the limited magnitude of Africa's resources, the level of economic development and the scope of inter-African trade and economic relations, what programme of economic and social co-operation could be most useful ? The criterion that should be applied here is rather one of "marginal" usefulness.

Furthermore, the Commission must set its eyes on what is being done in Africa by other international institutions, not all necessarily African in character, with a view to avoiding duplication of their efforts and complementing and strengthening their activities. In this respect, attention should be given to the activities in Africa of the United Nations and its family of specialized and related agencies. Still more important, particular attention should be given not only to what is being done at present by the Economic Commission for Africa but to its potentialities as an organ for promoting further inter-African co-operation and for providing African countries with a medium through which assistance is channelled. The bulk of the resources of the Economic Commission for Africa come from non-African sources.

4. Above and beyond these considerations, there is the question of setting up priorities. These priorities have to be worked out with due regard to the pressing nature of the existing needs and the availability of resources. Considering Africa's limited capacities, it is obvious that one should avoid over-stretching and over-extending these resources over too many objectives. Otherwise, the efforts thus expanded will never make any visible impact on any area of co-operation. Programmes for economic and social co-operation within the framework of the Organization of African Unity have to begin with those programmes which are most needed and are most likely to yield effective results.

5. Any suggestions as to what the role and scope of the activities of the Economic and Social Commission should have, therefore, to be based firstly on appreciation of the nature of the Organization.

Secondly, on the recognition that, as the one wholly African institution primarily relying on African resources the Commission's abilities will have to remain limited for some time to come. Finally, due note has to be taken of what is being done by other international institutions in Africa with a view to complementing or otherwise strengthening their activities.

6. What is the special nature of the Economic and Social Commission of the Organization of African Unity which makes it unique ? First and foremost, the creation of the OAU is a natural and timely response to the fervent desires and aspirations of the African peoples for some kind of political unity. The OAU certainly is not the culmination of a logical and natural development of many years of close and intimate contacts. The past is characterized, if by anything at all, by a total absence of relations. The opportunities for a natural development of functional institutions that could eventually become a basis for some sort of unity, were limited. Nor was this devoid of a deliberate policy on the part of the Colonial powers. Added to these factors, there were always the difficulties of communications.

The recent efforts -deliberate and idealistic- for creating a basis for African political unity and the machinery for co-operation, culminating in the creation of the OAU have to be viewed essentially as being political in nature. True, provisions have been made for organizing inter-African co-operation in the fields of economic and social activities, science and technology; culture and education; health and sanitation, and finally defence. But all these agencies for co-operation are within the framework of an Organization which is primarily political in its nature.

Further, the OAU is the only institution which is African and continental in scope. It is the only organization within which fundamental problems can be discussed by Africans only.

It goes without saying that the Organization of African Unity provides unique platforms for discussing these problems of economic and social co-operation whose solutions demand fundamental political decisions. United Nations platforms by their nature preclude certain sensitive problems from being discussed upon them, while other African institutions may be limited in their scope.

Examples of those problems which are at the same time political in nature are : the proposals for an African, continental and regional market, planning in Africa on a regional basis, co-ordinating infra-structural development, evolving larger Customs Unions, etc.. All these have their technical aspects. They all require elaborate technical studies. As may be seen from the Note submitted to the Commission by the Executive Secretary, the Economic Commission has either completed or is in process of preparing technical studies on a number of these problems. It is obvious, however, that the United Nations cannot provide a suitable framework to evolve the machinery for implementing some of these technical decisions. The implementation process necessarily involves political decisions.

It is suggested that the Economic and Social Commission of the OAU, as the one most suitable and effective platform for seeking solutions to economic and social problems which involve the taking of fundamental political decisions, could become a policy-forming organ at the highest level.

The activities of other African institutions of economic co-operation, or United Nations' agencies could be so directed as to develop in a manner that would complement the activities of the OAU. At least in the initial stages, the ECA could provide the facilities for preparing the purely technical studies.

7. Yet another function which the Commission could usefully undertake would be the development of regional projects. Needless to say, such programmes would be sinews in the development of African unity.

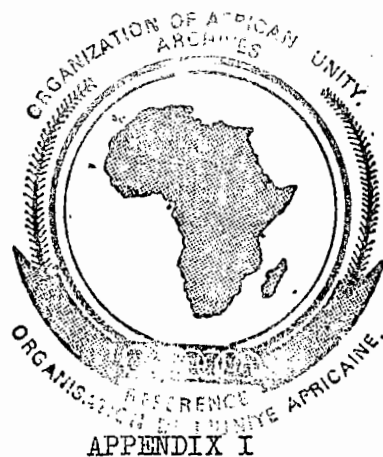
Furthermore, in a continent which still carries from Colonial times the legacy of fragmentation, a fragmentation into small, non-viable and anomalous units, militating strongly against efficient development resulting from a large-scale economy, the development of regional projects has its own special significance.

8. The OAU and particularly its Economic and Social Commission could become a useful medium for the channelling of foreign assistance on any regional basis. Already there are strong indications that in the future the major donor countries would find it economical to organize their

assistance collectively. African countries might be able to put before the donors a stronger case for more assistance if they were in a position to show that by organizing themselves regionally they were able to utilize more effectively the benefits of the assistance.

9. These and other similar functions could be usefully assumed by the Organization. The important consideration is that all these functions should be evolved with a due regard to the special nature of the Organization and with a recognition that because of this special nature the Organization could perform these functions better than any other institution. In view of the limitation of resources, already pointed out, there is the further necessity of setting up priorities.

Finally, the prospect of the Commission becoming a platform where only a pious and hortatory resolutions on the importance of economic developments are passed should be avoided. Very soon, the Commission will have to think in terms of programmes of economic and social co-operation which would, at the same time, further the cause of African unity and contribute to its effective development. The conception and execution of such programmes call for resources in personnel and finance. Thus the development of the scope of the Commission's activities and the tempo of its work must be commensurate with the availability of resources. Special attention and serious thinking should be given, particularly in these first years in the life of the Organization, to the evaluation of what the Commission could do most usefully, effectively and economically.



ECOS/4/Apx/1

APPENDIX I

AREAS OF CO-OPERATION IN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The Summit Conference of Independent African States meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 May to 25 May 1963 ;

Concerned with the active share of the developing countries in world trade and at the persistent deterioration of the terms of trade in their external commercial relationships;

Conscious of the fact that owing to its extreme dependence on the export of primary products Africa, more than any other developing region, is adversely affected by persistent deteriorations in export earnings;

Convinced of the necessity for concerted action by the African countries in order to ensure a much more remunerative price from the sale of their primary products;

Mindful of the need to eliminate the barriers to trade among the African countries and thereby to strengthen their economies;

Considering that economic development, including the expansion of trade on the basis of fair and remunerative prices, should tend to eliminate the need for external economic aid and that such external economic aid should be unconditional and should not prejudice the independence of African States;

Considering the imperative necessity for African countries to pool their resources and harmonize their activities in the economic field;

Aware of the necessity for the joint utilization of river basin resources, the study of the use of Sahara Zone, the co-ordination of means of transport and communication systems, and the provision of research facilities, all of which serve to stimulate economic growth

APPENDIX II

SOCIAL AND LABOUR MATTERS

The Summit Conference of Independent African States meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 22nd to the 25th May 1963;

Realizing the importance of social standard for the African peoples and the urgent need for raising such standard;

Considering that co-operation amongst the African States in the social and labour fields is vital and will contribute to the realization of a sound solidarity amongst their peoples;

Believing that the coming together of youth from African States will create better understanding and contribute to the realization of the desired African unity;

Believing further that co-operation in the labour field amongst African States is vital for our continent;

DECIDES that a Committee of Experts be called to convene within three months, pending the setting up of the Economic and Social Commission provided for in Article XX of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, to submit a report to the above Commission :

With regard to social and labour matters :

1. To conduct extensive studies on social and labour problems in the continent;
2. To lay down detailed programmes with a view to raising the social standard and to strengthen inter-African co-operation through :
 - a) The exchange of social and labour legislations;
 - b) The establishment of African Youth Organization;
 - c) The organization of African Scouts Union and an annual continental jamboree;
 - d) The organization of an annual African Sport Games;
 - e) The organization of vocational training courses in which African workers will participate;
 - f) The establishment of an African Trade Union.

and expansion of trade, both regionally and inter-regionally;

Convinced that the acceleration of the rate of economic and social development of the various African countries lies in the industrialization of these countries and the diversification of their production;

Considering the serious problems arising from the great shortage of trained and skilled personnel, the lack of qualified staff, scarce capital resources, grossly inadequate infrastructure, limited outlets for industrial products and the far too inadequate participation of Africans in the economic construction of their countries;

Desiring to explore the effects of regional economic groupings on the African economy;

Noting with satisfaction that the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa has decided to convene a Conference of African Ministers of Finance, to be held in Khartoum (Sudan) in July 1963, with a view to setting up an African Development Bank;

Resolves to :

1. Appoint, pending the establishment of the Economic Commission of the Organization, a preparatory economic committee to study, in collaboration with governments and in consultation with the Economic Commission for Africa, inter alia, the following questions and submit their findings to Member States :
 - (a) the possibility of establishing a free trade area between the various African countries;
 - (b) the establishment of a common external tariff to protect the emergent industries and the setting up of a raw material price stabilization fund;
 - (c) the restructuralization of international trade;

- (d) the means for developing trade among African countries by the organization and participation in African trade fairs and exhibitions and by the granting of transport and transit facilities;
- (e) the co-ordination of means of transport and the establishment of road, air and maritime companies;
- (f) the establishment of an African Payments and Clearing Union;
- (g) a progressive freeing of national currencies from all non-technical external attachments and the establishment of a Pan-African monetary zone; and
- (h) the ways and means of effecting the harmonization of existing and future national development plans.

2. Invite ECA to request its Executive Secretary to give the Commission of Experts all the necessary support and assistance which it may require in the fulfillment of its assignment;
3. Welcome the forthcoming Conference of African Ministers of Finance and to give the respective Ministers of Finance instructions to take the necessary measures for the rapid establishment of the African Development Bank;
4. Note with satisfaction the progress achieved by the Economic Commission for Africa in establishing the Dakar Institute of Economic Development and Planning and to affirm their profound interest in that institute and their intention of giving it appropriate financial and other support;
5. Welcome the forthcoming World Conference on Trade and Development which is to examine international trade problems in relation to the economic development of emerging countries;
6. Urge all States concerned to conduct negotiations, in concert, with a view to obtaining from the consumer countries real price stabilization and guaranteed outlets on the world market so that the developing countries may derive considerably greater revenue from international trade.

ECOS/5

2 December 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
First Session
Niamey, December 1963

MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY THE
PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT ON THE
FORTHCOMING UNITED NATIONS
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

1. Consistent with the purposes of the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the Economic and Social Commission as one of the Specialized Commissions of the Organization is charged with the promotion and co-ordination of co-operation among Member States in economic and social matters.

2. Thus, Article II of the Charter of African Unity states that one of the purposes of the Organization is "to co-ordinate and intensify their co-operation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa".

Further, paragraph 2 of the same Article inter-alia states that :

"To these ends, Member States shall co-ordinate and harmonize their general policies in the following fields :
(b) economic co-operation, including transport and communications."

3. It is to be noted that operative paragraph 5 of the resolution of the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Areas of Co-operation in Economic Problems welcomes :

" the Forthcoming World Conference on Trade and Development which is to examine international trade problems in relation to the economic development of emerging countries."

4. Further, operative paragraph 6 of the same resolution inter-alia urges :

" ... all States concerned to conduct negotiations, in concert, with a view to obtaining from the consumer countries real price stabilization and guaranteed outlets on the world market so that the developing countries may derive considerably greater revenue from international trade."

5. It is further to be noted that the United Nations Economic and Social Commission has decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva, on March 23, 1964 (E/Res/963(XXXVI))
6. Consistent with the above-mentioned resolutions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government and in view of the imminence and importance of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Provisional Secretariat has deemed it fit to help focus the attention of the Economic and Social Commission on the said Conference with a view to co-ordinating the positions of Member States at the forthcoming World Trade Conference.
7. It is beyond the purpose and the scope of this memorandum to recapitulate the long series of protracted discussions that have taken place during the last three years in the various United Nations platforms as regards the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In what follows, the Provisional Secretariat has made an attempt to make a relief outline of the whole background.
8. At the outset, it would seem to be very useful to identify the various groupings and alignment of interests in the great debate on international trade which has predominated all discussions of economic and social development in the United Nations. Such an approach would be helpful in delineating Africa's economic interests.
9. Broadly speaking, three protagonists, each with an identifiable interest of its own, have emerged from the discussions so far held on international trade. First and foremost, the highly industrialized western group of countries still wish to preserve their established and predominant position in international trade. Traditionally, these countries have been producers of finished industrial and capital goods which they sold to developing countries in exchange for raw materials and primary commodities.

10. By virtue of their recent past colonial domination, they have established a pattern of relationship - particularly in investment and trade - which gives them favourable, and, in some instances, unjust advantages over much of the under-developed world. The primary interest of this group of countries is to preserve as much of these unique advantages as possible, perhaps not so much in the old forms, but in a manner which is thought to be compatible with the requirements of the time. For each of the countries in the western group, there is also the additional problem of preserving its singular interest and preferential position in its former colonial possessions.

11. In the western group of industrialized countries, be it because of some lingering hopes of maintaining colonial interests, or of a new-born hope - more illusory than real - of maintaining the same colonial interests in newer and subtler forms, there is definitely a misunderstanding of the nature of the economic relationship which developing countries want to establish with their former colonizers. An appreciation of what the developing countries are asking from the developed countries in their trade relationships has been slow in coming. Changes and new ideas for a new pattern of international trade are automatically suspect and are liable to be met by negative reflex action rather than by any real disposition to consider them for what they are.

12. Although a number of these same countries might be willing to give financial assistance to the under-developed countries, they are generally unamenable to any suggestion which would involve compensation to the developing countries for loss of revenue sustained by them through the deterioration of their terms of trade. They would still reject, as a matter of habit, such a suggestion even if the financial burden for such a scheme is comparable to what the developed countries give by way of grants and assistance.

13. The second group of protagonists in these discussions on international trade are the Communist group of countries, whose views, to some extent, coincide with those of the developing countries, but for a different set of reasons. As a group, the Socialist countries have reached such a level of industrialization that they are now in a position to export large quantities of industrial goods to the underdeveloped world. Their rapid rate of economic development within the autarchic confines of their world is reaching a point of leveling-off.

14. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly clear that Soviet and East European economies (as well as the Chinese economy) have a lot to gain from trade with Western Europe and North America. In the field of agriculture, there appears to be a weakness in the way things are organized in these countries. The result is a shortage of agricultural products. It is, of course, difficult to tell whether, in the long-run, a basic re-organization will be brought about to solve this problem. But, at present, the approach of the Socialist countries is quite clear; i.e. take advantage of the surplus of agricultural products in the West, particularly in North America.

15. There also appears to be an area of advantage in East-West trade which the Socialist countries seem to recognize. Soviet and East European economies have in the past worked under a tight schedule of priorities. Consumers goods and equipment to produce these consumers goods have on the whole rated low in that schedule. A changing political climate in these countries has meant some shift of emphasis to consumers goods, especially the durable ones, i.e. radio and television sets, refrigerators, etc. The Western economies have a vast experience in producing these goods. And if one is to judge from recent trade agreements, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union (especially the latter) appear to think that it is less costly to import capital equipment for the production of consumer durables from the West than to develop them at home. The Soviet Union has, for instance, bought a whole plant for the production of plastics from Western Europe.

16. For these reasons, the Socialist countries are demanding a complete liberalization of international trade by means of the universal application of the most-favoured-nation treatment. To the Western group of countries, who do not want to aid and abet the economic development of the Communist countries, if they can help it at all, the implications of the Communist argument are not entirely lost.

17. However, apart from this consideration, there is also the embargo imposed on the shipment of the so-called strategic war materials - the definition of which is so broad that it is a partial trade boycott - imposed by the NATO members on the Communist countries. Obstacles are likewise placed on imports entering into Western countries from the East.

18. It is commonly contended that owing to their low prices, often motivated by political considerations, imports from Communist countries tend to depress prices in the West and harm established industries. Moreover, all the trading organizations in the Socialist countries are state-directed and commercial policies are conceived as instruments to achieve political objectives. No less important in this connection is the result of the political pressure made to bear on a number of the under-developed countries not to let their doors too open to imports from Socialist countries.

19. A combination of all these factors has created a very powerful resistance in the West to any attempt to normalize the conditions of trade with the Socialist countries. Nor is this resistance built without some deliberate campaign carried by vested interests and monopolies in the West, who fear that they would not be able to maintain some of their high prices with the competition of the Socialist countries.

20. Apart from the political problems, there are real institutional difficulties involved in East-West trade. The state trade organizations in Socialist countries administer prices according to pre-determined policies. The level of prices for each commodity is determined by decisions which the planners envisage should be consumed of that commodity in the plan-period. Price in Socialist countries is also an instrument which the state uses to allocate its limited foreign exchange resources among competing needs. Further, it is not altogether impossible to imagine that, because of the monopolization of international trade by state organizations in all Socialist countries, trade policies could be tailored to suit their political objectives.

21. It is no wonder, therefore, that the Socialist countries should regard the problem of international trade to be fundamentally political in nature, and insist that any discussion of international trade should begin with the consideration of "East-West" trade. The Socialist countries contend that the normalization and the elimination of trade barriers between East and West would lead to a general expansion of economic activities in the industrialized countries, both in the West and the East, with the concomitant result that the latter would be in a position to buy more from the developing countries. Though this may in general be a defensible contention, the developing countries should not lose sight of the special advantages which they may gain from the West's refusal to trade with the East - especially in agricultural commodities like wheat. If the developing countries are basically oriented towards the productions of primary products, there is hardly any good reason why they should not supplement the deficit in agricultural production in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, or China. In this sense, the West is a formidable competitor of the developing countries.

22. The third group of countries, with a distinct interest of their own are the developing countries, and Africa belongs to this group. Inasmuch as the under-developed countries have an interest in seeing the prices of raw materials maintained at increasing and remunerative levels, they certainly have a common cause. However, their interests become altogether dissimilar depending on what type of commodities, and how much of it they produce, and the stage of development they have attained.

23. It is not difficult to appreciate the fact that the interests of those developing countries with some semi-manufactures to export should be somewhat different from the interests of those developing countries which have no industries to speak of. Nor would the interests of a new producer of one major primary commodity be exactly the same as those of an old, established and major producer of the same commodity.

24. When one speaks of the identity of interests of the developing countries, one should at the same time recognize the various ramifications of this identity. It is fitting, therefore, in this context to give definition and precision to the interest which Africa is pursuing, or, at any rate, ought to pursue in the discussion on international trade.

25. By and large, developing countries could be classified, for the purpose of identifying their interests in this context, according to their level of development, their relative size, and their proportionate share in the world market as producers of a given raw material. The exporters of semi-manufactures among the developing countries, such as Yugoslavia, India and Brazil, are not so much interested in the various schemes of stabilization of prices, particularly if this is at increasingly remunerative price levels, as they are in the elimination of those obstacles imposed against their export of semi-manufactures.

26. Thus, when the representatives of these exporting countries speak of trade liberalization, they are primarily speaking of these obstacles. They are against any form of subsidies for non-competitive industries in the developed countries, and they envisage a system of division of labour which would allow them to develop industries, for which they claim they are uniquely suited. These industries, in their estimation, include those types which do not require sophisticated technical skills.

27. Those other developing countries, which, for a combination of historical and otherwise accidental reasons, today are major producers of one or two types of raw materials, are a group on their own. They are primarily interested in the stabilization of prices of their raw materials by means of commodity agreements between producers and consumers. Such an arrangement, they hope, could discourage potential producers of these materials from entering the market. The primary interest of this group of developing countries is to secure for themselves a remunerative level of prices for their products by limiting production and by making it impossible, through quota allocation, for new producers to enter the market.

28. Finally, we have a number of small under-developed countries which depend for their exports on one or two primary commodities. Moreover, their share is but an insignificant part of world production. Since a commodity agreement has of necessity to be based on existing proportionate share of world production, an arrangement of this nature will certainly put a heavy burden on these countries by limiting severely further production of whatever commodity is covered by the agreement.

29. As the developing countries of the last category are on a lower state of economic development, they normally do not have the means to enter into new lines of production of new types of raw materials. In most instances, the very size of the countries concerned and the range of their resources would limit their possibilities in the production of other kinds of raw materials. Even if it could be assumed, in some instances, that some of these countries have the means to enter into other lines of production, when their possibility to produce one commodity is limited by an agreement, it might be that the alternatives could likewise be limited by similar commodity agreements.

30. As the recent negotiation on the international coffee agreement confirmed, practically the entire African countries belong to this last category. A "commodity-by-commodity" approach to price stabilization would be unjust to these countries; instead, a multi-commodity approach could meet the needs of African countries. The latter could consider the interest of each of the developing countries, not only in respect to one particular commodity, based on existing levels of production, but in relation to its potentialities and alternative means of production. Adjustments of interest could conceivably be made to balance better over wider spectrum of commodities.

31. The last consideration has been upper-most in the thinking of African delegations to the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Trade Preparatory Committee, and very recently to the Fifth Session of ECA. Some African delegations have broadly supported proposals which envisaged the extension of "commodity-by-commodity" arrangements to a "multi-commodity" mechanism. In this connection proposals for a World Trade Organization have been repeatedly submitted. Although the latter could be useful in supervising the workings of a "multi-commodity" arrangement, it is opposed with unintelligible passion by the Western countries.

32. At the Fifth Session of the Economic Commission for Africa, some African delegations took the initiative as regards this important issue. African delegations have proposed that the ECA Secretariat should specifically study the implications of the "commodity-by-commodity" approach to price stabilization, as opposed to a "multi-commodity" approach on the economies of African states. This last suggestion was and is offered with the belief that, when the study shall have been completed, it would prove the contention that the "commodity-by-commodity" approach would be burdensome on African economies, and that it is only a "multi-commodity" approach that would safeguard Africa's interest.

33. In this connection, African delegations have contended that the problem of international trade must be approached on a priority basis if the concept of the Development Decade is to have any meaning. The problems of international trade have to be analyzed in terms of their shortcomings, particularly in terms of the trade needs of the developing countries. The trade needs of African countries should quantitatively be studied in terms of what it would take to initiate a self-sustaining minimum annual rate of economic growth of, at least, five percent by the end of the decade.

34. The role of aid, too, must be considered jointly with the expansion of trade. In the final analysis, both aid and trade provide foreign exchange to finance the import of equipment and materials for development. Hypothetically, it is always better to finance development by one's own means rather than by borrowed money. But the obstacles facing the exports of developing countries are so formidable that even if rational solutions could be applied exports will not provide all the necessary foreign exchange for growth. Economic aid is, therefore, a necessary supplement. And judging from current levels of economic assistance to the developing countries, it cannot be said that the developed countries have reached their aid-giving limit. The figure of 1% of national income, often quoted as a feasible level of aid, has yet to be reached.

35. As regards the general orientation of the coming World Conference on Trade, it is imperative to note that there is a great merit in undertaking a re-evaluation of the institutional arrangement in the field of international trade, including a study of the merits and the demerits, and the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive international institution.

36. It is, therefore, pertinent to inquire into the existing international institutions and arrangements in the field of international trade. General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) is the main institution. When GATT was in the process of elaboration in the late forties, the interest of the developing countries was not then, the least to say, a primary consideration; and GATT was indeed primarily designed to meet the needs of developed countries. Boycotted by the Socialist countries, GATT cannot aspire to be a universal organization.

37. Lately, as a result of the increasing membership of developing countries, GATT has at last awakened to the problems of the developing countries. But, apart from GATT, the existing institutions in the field of international trade would comprise of the commodity agreements already in existence, coupled with those likely to come soon. The "commodity-by-commodity" approach in establishing prices of primary commodities, at least, in those instances where the developed countries themselves are not also major producers, seems to have gained currency in the West as well as in those developing countries, where, for one historical reason or other, they have been for a long time major producers of certain primary commodities.

38. All told, the present institutional arrangement in the field of international trade is most unsatisfactory. This is particularly more so, with few exceptions, to Africa. Because of certain historical and political reasons, Africa is a late-comer in the contest for markets in the industrialized countries. Other parts of the world, particularly

Latin America and Asia, have had longer years of trade contacts with Europe, and thus have a certain amount of commercial production of some primary commodities. The rest of the developing world has, therefore, a good head-start over Africa in modern commercial production and marketing of quite a number of primary commodities.

39. What is the implication of this state of affairs ? If the present trend of establishing commodity prices on a "commodity-by-commodity" basis continues, then a quota system has to be worked out in respect of each commodity. These quota allotments have to be made to reflect the existing proportionate share of each producer in world production or market of whatever commodity is being subject to an agreement.

40. As the last International Coffee Agreement proved, the quota allotments were formulated on the basis of existing levels of production. Understandably, this formula protected the interest of most of the Latin American countries which are the major coffee producers. But, by ignoring altogether the tremendous potentialities of many African countries, and the relative importance of coffee in their economies, and whatever alternative production possibilities they have, the last coffee agreement has committed a great injustice to the interest of Africa. Unless worked with other considerations, a quota system based on simple arithmetical average is but a blind regime of statistical tyranny. It is also worth recalling that the agreement was of quota and not of prices. Evidently, if the supply of coffee is controlled, its price may to some extent also be controlled. But that is a statement bordering on the realm of possibility. There are several other factors determining price levels; and it must be considered unfortunate that the agreement did not envisage setting a floor below which prices should not be allowed to fall.



ECOS/5
Page 13

41. One policy which African countries should pursue at the coming Trade Conference is the parity formula along the lines of that employed internally by a number of the advanced industrial countries. It has been recognized in these countries that the severe competition normally characteristic of the farm economy causes farm prices to be chronically weak, in relation to the prices of industrial goods. Consequently, in the absence of government intervention in the economy, the internal terms of trade between farm and factory would be unfavourable to the former, and would lead to social injustice. In the United States and some of the continental European countries, such intervention takes the form of direct government support of farm prices at pre-determined levels. In Britain, domestic farm products are sold at world market prices, and the government pays to the farmers the differences between the sale prices actually realized and the prices considered necessary to provide farmers with an adequate income. In both cases, farm prices are fixed by governments, directly or indirectly, in terms of their relationship to industrial prices, the ratio of the two sets of prices being related to some base period regarded as fair or equitable.

42. It is now time for the world community to recognize that the parity principle which it has already accepted for internal purposes is no less relevant in international trade. There are several ways in which a parity policy could be implemented internationally, and the measures required should be worked out in due course by experts. The immediate objective, however, should be acknowledgement of the principle itself.

43. To conclude : It is not too far-sighted to look upon the prevailing structure of international trade as a mere obstruction on the path of the developing countries. It is more than that; in a sense, it may be likened to a stream with ever-widening banks. And unless the developing countries, the African states in particular, strive here and now to bridge the gap, the hoped-for prosperous and peaceful future for Africa might not - if ever - be realized.

44. The Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the resolutions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government are eloquent on this point : Member States should harmonize their policies in all fields, most of all in economic co-operation. This is an imperative economic need.

45. Hereunder are listed some pointers on the kind of common specific objectives which Member States should map out so as to harmonize their efforts at the forthcoming United Nations Trade and Development Conference:

- (i) A basic objective of a World Trade Conference must be to ensure that the foreign exchange resources of under-developed countries expand at a rate commensurate with their development needs.
- (ii) The principle should be recognized that developed countries should accord trade with under-developed countries priority in any programme they adopt for reducing the barriers to trade.
- (iii) Developed countries should jointly and individually set targets for the complete freeing of their imports from under-developed countries from all duties, excises and other restrictions. Such targets should be defined in precise quantitative terms, and their realization should be based in harmony with existing programmes for the freeing of trade of developed countries with one another.
- (iv) Developed countries should jointly and individually set targets for the elimination of discrimination in their imports from under-developed countries. Such targets should, be defined in specific terms both quantitatively and as regards timing.
- (v) The principle of price parity in world trade should be seriously considered, and concrete measures worked out for making it feasible. In other words, the world community should recognize a collective responsibility for maintaining an acceptable relationship between the prices of industrial goods and of primary products, whether through collective price support programmes, production controls, subsidy payments or some combination of these or other measures.

- (vi) Developed countries should undertake to promote imports of manufactures from under-developed countries, and should apply the same measures to facilitate internal adjustments as they do in respect of trade with one other.
- (vii) In so far as the liberalization of imports and adoption of the parity principle do not result in an adequately rapid rate of growth of imports from under-developed countries, developed countries should recognize a responsibility to provide economic aid accordingly.
- (viii) The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs should be renegotiated so as to yield an instrument that is more responsive to contemporary realities and an organization that can deal effectively with the trade problems of under-developed countries.
- (ix) It should be a primary objective of a revised General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs to avoid all and any damaging effects of Common Market arrangements among developed countries upon the under-developed countries.
- (x) Under-developed countries should themselves recognize an obligation to liberalize trade with one another to the maximum extent consistent with their development needs. They should, wherever possible, create wider markets for industry (transcending existing national frontiers) within the framework of joint development programmes and with large-scale financial assistance from international agencies.

APPENDIX I

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

963 (XXXVI). UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council;

Recalling its resolutions 917 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962, 944 (XXXV) of 18 April 1963, and General Assembly resolution 1785 (XVII) of 8 December 1962 on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recalling further its resolution 919 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962 on the Group of Experts on Commodity and Trade problems of developing countries,

Convinced that economic and social progress throughout the world depends in a large measure on an expansion in international trade; and on an increasing participation of developing countries in it,

Believing that the development of equitable and mutually advantageous trade can promote higher standards of living, full employment and rapid economic progress in all countries of the world and can help create an atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding among nations, and strengthen peaceful and neighbourly relations between States,

Realizing that the fundamental problems of developing countries are well identified and that what is now required is a universal readiness to act and generally to adopt practical measures aimed at increasing exports and export earnings of developing countries and accelerating their economic development,

Having in mind the joint statement of the developing countries in the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development dated 27 June 1963,

Confident that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will represent an outstanding event in international co-operation conducive to the development of the economies of the developing countries and the growth of the world economy as a whole,

Proceeding from the aims and action programme of the United Nations Development Decade as set out in its resolution 916 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962, designed to promote international economic co-operation so as to supplement adequately the efforts of the developing countries to achieve self sustained growth of their economies,

Bearing in mind the need for adequate and comprehensive preparations for the proposed Conference,

Expressing its appreciation to the Directors-General of the ILO and WHO for the co-operation in seeking to adjust the dates of their meetings so as to make it possible for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to meet in Geneva,

Recognising the wide interest expressed in the Conference by members of the United Nations family and various inter-governmental bodies,

Mindful of the possibility that developments in the time remaining before the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development meets may make it desirable to introduce some changes into the provisional agenda for the Conference,

I

1. Takes note of the report of the Group of Experts on commodity and trade problems of developing countries (E/3756),

2. Further takes note of the report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee (E/3799, E/3799/Corr. 1, English only) defining the problems before the Conference, presenting proposals for action or indicating lines along which solutions may be sought,

3. Decides that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development shall be held in Geneva, beginning on 23 March 1964, and continuing until 15 June 1964,

4. Decides to convene a third session of the Preparatory Committee in New York beginning on 3 February 1964,

5. Approves the provisional agenda drawn up by the Preparatory Committee and authorises the Committee at its third session, in the event of changes in the provisional agenda becoming desirable in the light of circumstances then pertaining, to modify the provisional agenda accordingly,

6. Approves the arrangements for documentation set out in that report and further outlined by the Secretary-General of the Conference,

7. Further approves the Preparatory Committee's recommendations on levels of representation, the rules of procedure and similar administrative arrangements,

8. Approves the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee contained in paragraph 208 of its report (document E/3799) as regards the invitation to the inter-governmental economic organizations;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its resumed thirty-sixth session proposals regarding the inter-governmental economic organizations which would be chiefly interested in the work of the Conference, and regarding the practical rules to be observed for the participation of those organizations in the Conference as observers.

II

1. Invites the States which will participate in the Conference to give earnest consideration, before the beginning of the Conference, to proposals for concrete and practical international action and to explore all practical means for their implementation, so as to make it possible to reach, at the Conference, basic agreement on measures constituting a new international trade and development policy,

2. Expresses the hope that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will offer an opportunity for the manifestation, in the field of trade and development, of the will necessary to contribute to the acceleration of the economic development of developing countries and the promotion of economic stability and security in the world at large.

ECOS/6

20 November 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
First Session
Niamey, December 1963

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government in its Resolution on Areas of Co-operation in Economic Problems urged collaboration between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In line with this, and at the request of the Provisional Secretariat, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa prepared the report attached hereto on the economic and social activities of the ECA.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

NOTE BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ECA

.(prepared at the request of the provisional secretariat of
the Organization of African Unity)

This note on the economic and social activities of the ECA has been prepared at the request of the provisional secretariat of the Organization of African Unity, as background for the first meeting of the OAU's Economic and Social Commission. It consists of three parts: the general and principal problems arising in each field; the work so far done by ECA to assist in solving these problems; and the practical steps which still have to be taken, together with an indication of ECA's current and expected contribution in the coming years.

The first part of this note is a broad summary, since the main problems are well known. The second part, on ECA's work so far, is in very summary terms. ^{1/} The practical purpose of this note is to be found in its third part.

The principal economic and social problems facing Africa

There is no need here to recall in detail the main facts about the economic and social situation in Africa. Except in certain coastal areas, there is a low density of population. There is a wide range of climatic conditions frequently giving rise to severe problems. There is a rich endowment in most natural resources. Much of the agriculture is of a subsistence character, with at the other end of the scale well-developed production of commodities dependent on world markets. Apart from South Africa, the level of industrialization is the lowest of all the world's continents, although there has been considerable progress in some countries since the second world war.

Transport facilities are geared to the export of raw materials to world markets, and intra-African transport of all forms is very limited indeed.

^{1/} A fuller account, in more analytical terms, of the work done by ECA in its first five years is being submitted to the sixth session of the Commission

Given the character of African agricultural industry and transport, intra-African trade is extremely limited and Africa is heavily dependent on overseas trade. Moreover, the continent is dependent on commodities, the prices of which fluctuate widely and the market for some of which is nearing saturation. The key problem in agriculture is diversification and the transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture and the further processing of agricultural raw materials, partly for world markets but still more to **substitute** imports and to provide the needs of neighbouring countries. In industry the immediate approach is the **substitution** of imports of consumer goods and light industrial products by domestic manufacture. But it is urgent to start now with the introduction of large-scale modern industry, and this can only be done through sub-regional co-operation and the sharing-out on a regional basis of major industries.

It will be some time before Africa can hope to compete, in its industrial products, in world markets, unless there is a radical change in the import policies of the industrialized countries.

All African countries are resorting to economic planning in one form or another, and the ideological question of planning versus free enterprise, which looms so large in discussions in other Continents, is of limited significance. All African countries are seeking foreign assistance, foreign enterprise and outside financing.

One of the basic obstacles to economic planning is the lack of adequate statistics. Another is lack of sufficient knowledge of the techniques of formulating and executing development plans.

The African colonial heritage has led to arbitrary frontiers, differences in legislation and administrative systems, and monetary systems. The ties with the former metropolitan powers still exist and have led to various sub-regional groupings, with their links with the European Common Market, the British Commonwealth, and with particular European countries. All this has given impetus to the move towards an African Common market and a Payments Union.

Political, racial and tribal divisions, together with sheer poverty, account for Africa's limited social infra-structure. There is an urgent need to build up health, education services, housing and social welfare

and community development facilities of all kinds. Adequate provision of these services must depend on economic development but progressive provision for them must be fitted into development plans. Perhaps most important of all, there is an urgent need for training at all levels: public administration, management in industry and agriculture, scientists and technicians, middle-grade cadres in all fields, and skilled workers.

The work so far done by ECA

The ECA was established by the UN Economic and Social Council in April 1958, and its first session was held from 28 December 1958 to 6 January 1959. So far, five plenary sessions of the Commission have been held, and it will be seen that the organization has not yet completed its first five years. This is in marked contrast with the other regions. The regional Commissions for Europe, Latin America and Asia and the Far East, have been in existence for some fifteen years. Much of this period has necessarily been devoted to establishing the organization, its Committee structure, and building up its secretariat. Furthermore, it is obvious that in a continent as vast as Africa, it has taken time to make known to member countries what the Commission has to offer. It should also be remembered that, excluding South Africa, there were nine African member countries at the first session, and 32 at the fifth. Recruiting a suitable secretariat has been no easy task, and it was only by the end of 1962 that the secretariat was approaching its full authorized strength.

The activities of the ECA have been developed in accordance with decisions taken by the Commission at successive sessions. They have been derived from the basic economic and social problems of Africa sketched out in the first part of this note. The order in which these problems have been tackled was necessarily dependent to some extent on the resources available to the secretariat.

As an inter-governmental body, the Commission operates through Standing Committees and ad hoc meetings.

The first Conference of African Statisticians was held in the autumn of 1959 and meets every two years. The first meeting of the Standing Committee on Trade was held in the autumn of 1962. The first meeting of the Committee on Industry and Natural Resources (to the terms of reference of which Transport has now been added) was also held in the autumn of 1962. The Standing Committee on Housing and Physical Planning

was established, following a meeting of experts, by the fifth session. Regular meetings of experts on social welfare and community development have been held. A meeting on urgent administrative problems was held in the autumn of 1962, and the Commission have decided that regular meetings will be held in this field. There have been a number of ad hoc meetings on economic and social development. The first African Cartographic Conference was held in July 1963. The first African Electric Power Conference was held in October 1963. There have been ad hoc meetings on industry, transport, trade, statistics and agriculture. It will be seen that a pattern of meetings is emerging, with Standing Committees or their equivalent, in key areas, supplemented by ad hoc meetings in more specialized fields, sometimes of a policy character, sometimes expert gatherings designed to add to the sum of knowledge, sometimes essentially of a training character.

In the early stages of the Commission, the attention of the secretariat was directed to fact-gathering and basic research. An Economic Survey of Africa from 1950-1959 had been prepared by UN Headquarters and was completed in 1959. This was followed up by country studies, including surveys of current economic developments in the region as well as economic surveys covering groups of countries or the region as a whole. Research work was carried out in money, banking and public finance. An Economic Bulletin for Africa is issued regularly, the first being prepared in the course of 1960 and submitted to the third session of the Commission. So far, five issues of the Bulletin have been prepared and a sixth will be submitted to the sixth session. Two studies have been prepared on the economic and social consequences of racial discrimination. A study on government expenditure and receipts in a selected African countries has been published in the Bulletin. A basic analysis of African monetary systems, with reference to their impact on intra-African trade and problems of African economic development, will be ready shortly. Work is now in hand on a basic long-term survey of Africa, consisting of a comprehensive review (survey) of changes in the economic structure of Africa, including relevant political and social factors, with a view to showing their influence on current development policies and development planning. There will be a detailed analysis of the 1950's and a concluding section showing prospects and possibilities in the next decade or so.

The basis for the Commission's activities in the field of activities was laid at its first session in December 1958. In the memorandum on Programme of Work and Priorities, the Executive Secretary suggested that: "all countries and territories in Africa should participate in a programme of statistical development to bring them to a step where economic and social problems and programmes can be handled with fuller knowledge of the basic quantities involved." A procedure for initiating a joint effort to stimulate statistical development, referred to as the "Statistical Survey of Africa", was also outlined in an annex attached to this paper. The first session of the Commission endorsed these views.

The First Conference of African Statisticians met at Addis Ababa from 20 September to 8 October 1959. Two further such conferences have been convened since then, at Tunis from 26 June to 7 July 1961 and at Addis Ababa from 2 to 11 October 1963. In the light of discussions at these Conferences and recommendations made by them, emphasis in the Commission's work-programme has been more on statistical development, including training and methodology rather than collection of statistics, though the latter task has not been altogether neglected.

The work undertaken by the Commission in the field of statistics since 1959 may be described under the following headings:

- (a) Assistance to countries in the preparation of long-term programmes of statistical development to meet the requirements of economic and social planning;
- (b) Establishment of training facilities for improving the supply of statistical staff at all levels, by means of training centres and fellowship schemes;
- (c) Organization of study tours, seminars and working groups of experts for exchange of statistical information and improvement of standards and methodology;
- (d) The maintenance of regional advisory service in statistical matters;
- (e) Assistance in the field of data processing; and
- (f) Collection and publication of current African statistics on a comparable basis.

The First Conference of African Statisticians stressed the importance of preparing programmes of statistical work covering the next five years by each country. The statistical staff of the Commission's Secretariat assisted in the preparation of these programmes through participation in the exercise during their visits to various countries and subsequent review of the draft programmes at sub-regional meetings of heads of statistical offices and at the Second Conference of African Statisticians. The Third Conference of African Statisticians reviewed this subject again in the light of the experience accumulated since 1959. It considered two papers prepared by the Secretariat in this connection and resolved that the Secretariat should:

- (a) Convene a working group of statisticians and economic planners with the object of exploring further the question of developing statistical organizations and programmes to meet planning requirements;
- (b) Revise and expand the document E/CN.14/CAS.3/9, "Use of the Revised List of Basic Statistics for Programming Statistical Development", for use by countries in the light of the views expressed by the Conference.

Since the outstanding need in developing African statistical services is for more trained personnel, the Conference of African Statisticians and the Commission have made specific recommendations at every session for the establishment of training facilities for middle-grade and professional personnel. It was also recommended that arrangements should be made for enlarging the practical experience of senior personnel in specific fields through study tours and fellowships. Pursuant to these recommendations the Secretariat has undertaken a number of ad hoc and continuing projects which included:

- (a) A three-month training course in population census techniques in Accra from 15 March to 14 June 1961.
- (b) A summer vacation course for university students, dealing with house-hold budget surveys, in Libreville from 21 August to 26 September 1961.
- (c) Three full-time middle level training centres established in co-operation with the Government of Cameroun, Ethiopia and Ghana in Yaounde, Addis Ababa and Achimota. The United Nations is also assisting three national centres at Abidjan, Dar-es-Salaam and Lagos.

- (d) Facilities for a two-year course for French-speaking trainees at the centre established by the Government of Morocco in Rabat.
- (e) A study tour in connection with the Ghana census in Accra from 3 to 20 June 1960 in co-operation with the Government of Ghana.
- (f) A study tour in Tunisia, in co-operation with the Tunisian Government and FAO, from 7 to 11 July 1961 on survey work being carried out in that country.
- (g) A study tour in October-November, in the United Arab Republic and Morocco, in Co-operation with the Governments of those countries and FAO to study the agricultural and labour force surveys in the United Arab Republic and the national multi-purpose survey in Morocco, as well as the general statistical organization in both countries.

Three working groups on national accounts met at Addis Ababa from 27 June to 2 July 1960, from 10 to 12 January 1961, and from 24 to 29 September 1962 respectively. The first working group was concerned with a methodological study, viz. the treatment of non-monetary (subsistence) transactions within the framework of national accounts. The second working group was convened in conjunction with the first African regional conference of the International Association for Research into Income and Wealth (IARIW). This group considered the uses of national accounts as a foundation for economic policy and development programming and related conclusions on the orientation of statistical development in Africa. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary convened a Working Group on the adaption of the United Nations System of national accounts for use in Africa in September 1962.

Two Working Groups were convened to consider problems relating to foreign trade statistics. The first, which met in Addis Ababa from 29 November to 7 December 1961, reviewed the status of foreign trade statistics in African countries, and defined the scope of the Commission's activities in this field. The second group which was also convened in Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 September 1963, was concerned primarily with discussing the methodology of constructing trade indices in African

countries and considering the problem of standardizing quantum units in African trade statistics.

A Seminar on Industrial Statistics, sponsored by ECA and the Statistical Office of the United Nations, was held in Addis Ababa from 16 to 27 July 1962 to provide guidance concerning the objectives, contents and methodology of gathering and compiling industrial statistics in African countries, and in particular, of inquiries to be undertaken as part of the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics.

Two meetings have been organized to stimulate interest in house-hold surveys. The object of the first, a Working Group of Consultants on House-hold Surveys which met in Addis Ababa in December 1961, was to review the existing position regarding house-hold surveys, to clarify the objectives and methods of such surveys under African conditions and to consider the development of survey programmes as part of the regular work of national statistical offices. The second, a Technical Meeting on Food Consumption Surveys, was convened jointly with FAO in Rabat from 17 to 25 July 1963 to discuss the FAO Programme of Food Consumption Surveys, and adapt it to conditions in Africa.

Two other working groups complete the list of meetings of experts convened since 1959 to review problems of statistical methodology in Africa. A Technical Meeting on Balance of Payments was held in Rabat from 31 July to 9 August to consider problems relating to the compilation of balance of payments statistics in African countries. A Working Group of Experts met in Addis Ababa from 9 to 16 October 1963 in order to discuss practical problems connected with estimating capital formation in African countries.

Finally, reference may be made to a series of other measures of a continuing nature designed to facilitate exchange of information among African statisticians on problems of training regional co-operation, current programmes and other matters of mutual interest. First, the Secretariat has instituted a tradition of calling sub-regional meetings of heads of statistical offices between two Conferences of African Statisticians. Two such meetings were organized in 1960 to review the progress made in the preparation of country programmes and to draw up a provisional programme of regional co-operation. The first of these was held in Nairobi from 30 May to 3 June 1960, the second at Cairo from 21 to 24 November 1960. In 1962 similar meetings were arranged in Yaounde and Khartoum for West Africa and North Africa respectively.

Reference also should be made to a meeting of Directors of Training Centres convened in Addis Ababa in April 1962 for coordination of training policy and activities.

The work so far done on trade can be divided into three broad groups: African overseas trade, intra-African trade, and tools and techniques of trade promotion. At the start much emphasis was placed on trade relations with countries outside the region. This was only natural, since there were only nine independent African countries, excluding South Africa, when the Commission was established, and the European Common Market had only just started to function effectively. There was an understandable desire to clarify the relationships of Africa with the former metropolitan powers. As more African countries became independent, the emphasis began to change. A major study of African trade with centrally-planned economies was started in 1961. The first serious attack on intra-African trade problems was made in the second half of the same year, when a Working Party met to examine problems of customs administration in West Africa. A major study of relationships between Africa and Western Europe was presented to the Standing Committee on Trade in 1962, and the decisions of the fifth session of the Commission in February 1963 were of major importance. A resolution was adopted requesting intensified studies on the major problems of an African Common Market, and another calling for a study of the possibilities of establishing a clearing system within a Payments Union between African countries. A paper on steps towards an African Common Market has been prepared for consideration by the Standing Committee on Trade's second session, to be held in November 1963. A paper has also been prepared on steps towards an African Payments Union, for examination by a meeting of experts in January 1964. Papers on intra-African trade, trade in African development plans and projections of African trade are being prepared for the UN World Trade Conference to be held in Geneva in 1964. Superimposed on the consideration of problems of trade policy are activities in the field of trade promotion and training; training courses and in-service training are given regularly in customs administration and commercial policy.

The agricultural programmes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa have been conducted since the establishment of the ECA Secretariat in 1959 by an agriculture division staffed and financed jointly by the ECA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). This is also true of the agricultural programmes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

America. It seems likely that this joint arrangement, which has worked very satisfactorily, will continue in future.

As befits a body like ECA, which aims at fostering the economic and social growth of Africa, its joint programme of work in agriculture is directed toward economic and social aspects of agriculture. Technical questions are handled under the technical programmes of FAO. Continuing projects undertaken by the Joint Agriculture Division of the ECA includes the review and analysis of current progress in the field of food and agriculture in Africa, agricultural development programmes and planning, the distribution and consumption of agricultural products, agricultural industries and assistance to governments.

These continuing projects are carried out in practice through a series of ad hoc meetings, staff visits, and investigations which change from year to year according to the conditions in agriculture and the decisions of the Commission.

At present action is being taken to examine in some detail factors necessary for raising the productivity of African agriculture including the improvement of marketing facilities and arrangements, the application of production aids such as fertilizers, irrigation and machinery, and institutional factors like land tenure and agricultural credit. Expert and ministerial meetings are planned to explore these and other factors and policies in bringing the subsistence producer to an increasing extent into the market economy. An analysis of the rural economic and social conditions in a sub-region in West Africa is being initiated as a case study. An Africa-wide survey of forest production and future needs for wood is being carried out jointly with FAO. The structure and role of marketing boards and caisses de stabilisation are being reviewed as part of a continuing project on price stabilization measures. A recent addition to the work programme in agriculture has been investigations and advisory activities bearing on the processing, storage and packaging of agricultural products and the improvement of the relevant industries.

These and other projects are being conducted in close harmony with the planning, industrial and social divisions of the ECA Secretariat, with the FAO and the World Food Programme.

In the social field the first step was a workshop on the organization of national community development programmes held in the autumn of 1959, designed to exchange experience and to establish contacts. At this meeting there was emphasis on training activities and also research into ways and means of associating communities with development programmes and transforming traditional methods of community action into modern methods of co-operation. Arising out of the recommendations of this workshop, two projects followed: a training course for officers in charge of women's work, and a general survey of community development in Africa. A study tour on community development was organized, covering Tanganyika, Ghana, Western Nigeria and the United Arab Republic. The training course on methods of furthering the participation of women in community development was integrated with a UN seminar on child and family welfare into a workshop on the extension of family and child welfare services within community development programmes, which was held at Accra late in 1960. Work initiated on the applicability of community development techniques to urban areas in Africa consisted of two community development pilot projects in urban areas in Africa and a study of the steps necessary to minimize the social disruption arising from urban development. A study was made of the progress of the co-operation movement in Africa, based on visits to Tanganyika, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal. The next step was the first meeting of experts on social welfare and community development held early in 1962. The main objective of this meeting was to enable planners, administrators and technical experts on social welfare, community development and urbanization to exchange information and experience on their national programmes. Particular emphasis has been given to examination of the relationship between community development and economic development, involving both studies of countries with experience in this field and training courses for national supervisory and administrative personnel.

A further meeting of experts on social welfare and community development was held early in 1963. A study was carried out in 1962/63 by a team of specialists which attempted to evaluate the contribution of community development to economic development in Ghana. One conclusion was that although "self-help" projects in Ghana had made a direct economic contribution, this had been relatively small and the economic benefits mainly indirect. However, the

of community development officers and assistants and the setting up of town and village development committees has provided a significant new channel of communication between the Governments and the people.

A study of national social welfare and community development programmes, including planning, financing and integration with over-all development planning was undertaken in Ghana and the UAR. Comparisons were drawn between the organizational structure of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the UAR and the department of social welfare and community development in Ghana. Attention was drawn to the need for integrating Governmental agencies operating at the rural level within the planning agency, able to co-ordinate all such services. A similar case study is being undertaken in Upper Volta and the Ivory Coast. Towards the end of 1963, a training course for government officials in the East Africa sub-region, responsible for the planning, organization, administration and implementation of community development programmes, was held in Dar-es-Salaam. A study tour is now under way in Asian countries on community development, methods and techniques.

In the field of social welfare, the first step was a meeting of experts on the organization and administration of social welfare services held in Abidjan early in 1963. A principal recommendation was that governments should be responsible for planning and establishing national social welfare programmes, taking into account local wishes and needs and the part capable of being played by voluntary organizations. This led to a seminar on training for social welfare services which was held in Lusaka towards the end of 1963, bringing together directors of schools of social work and administrators of in-service training schools. Directors and administrators of social welfare programmes took part in a study tour in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal and the UAR in the middle of 1963.

Social research projects carried out include a study of the resettlement of Wadi Haifa necessitated by the building of the Aswan dam. A social survey of Addis Ababa has been carried out in co-operation with a University College. A workshop on urbanization in Africa was held early in 1962. A seminar on the role of women in urban development was held in Lagos in September 1963.

The first step in the study of economic development was a broad survey of development programmes and policies covering some twenty African countries, published in the first issue of the Economic Bulletin for Africa. At this stage, apart from North Africa, planning was concerned mainly with public capital expenditure. Subsequently, there has been a move towards a more comprehensive conception of economic planning. A working group on economic and social development was held in Addis Ababa in January 1962, covering three main areas: development policies and programming, the establishment of an Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and the establishment of an African Development Bank. The Institute was launched in Dakar in October 1963. In the initial stages it is concentrating on teaching, with a basic nine-months' course for officials from economic planning organizations, supplemented by more specialized courses in Tunis and in Cairo, and by short summer vacation courses. The Institute will steadily move into research and advisory services to Governments. Following intensive preparation by a Committee of Nine and the ECA secretariat, in association with consultants and with UN Headquarters, an agreement establishing the African Development Bank was signed in Khartoum in August 1962 by 22 independent African governments. Subsequently, four more have signed, and ratifications are proceeding steadily. The Bank itself is expected to begin operations in the course of 1965. It has an authorized capital of US \$250 million from African sources, supplemented by non-African loans and grants. It will be managed by Africans.

At ECA's third session, a study was requested on the economic and social consequences of racial discriminatory practices on the mobilization of all available resources for the balanced economic development of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission. This has been carried out, covering seven countries with multi-racial societies in the South, Central and Eastern sub-regions of the continent. A further meeting of experts on comprehensive development planning was held in October 1962. In October 1963, another meeting of experts was held on the integration of social development plans with over-all development planning. Meanwhile, studies are continuing of African development plans, development problems and prospects, and major study is in progress. Another study is also in progress on the co-ordination of African development plans.

Reference has already been made to social research studies being carried out, and in the last year increasing attempts have been made to study criteria for the provision within over-all development plans of education health and social services. In 1961 a conference of African states on the development of education was held in Addis Ababa under the joint auspices of UNESCO and ECA. This conference reached agreement on the outline of a plan for educational development in Africa. The meeting was followed by a conference of African Ministers of Education held in Paris in March 1962, to be followed by a second conference of Ministers of Education to be held in Dakar in January 1964. The ECA secretariat is participating actively in this work.

Within the framework of its work on economic development, the ECA has an expanding programme of demographic studies. Two main studies have been prepared, one dealing with the relationship between demographic factors and economic and social development, and the other with trends in urbanization. A training course in demography was organized, in co-operation with the Government of Ghana, in the Spring of 1961. This gave impetus to the establishment of two centres for demographic training and research. The North African centre, established in co-operation with the Government of the UAR, is already in operation in Cairo. Arrangements are being made to establish the second centre at Dakar in 1964.

A seminar on population problems in Africa was held in Cairo in 1962. There was considerable emphasis on the need for extending and improving basic demographic statistics in Africa. Stress was also laid on sub-regional co-operation in the training of specialized personnel. The 1960 round of population censuses and sample surveys yielded a large volume of demographic material. On the basis of this, and analytical study on recent demographic levels and trends in Africa has just been completed. In addition, "The Demographic Handbook for Africa" will shortly be issued.

The ECA's work on industry, transport, energy and natural resources, housing building and planning was a late starter, mainly owing to difficulties in finding suitable personnel for the secretariat. The first serious attempt to draw up a work programme in this broad area was made towards the end of 1961. This programme was adopted by the fourth session of the Commission in February 1962, when a decision was also made to establish a Standing Committee on Industry and natural Resources.

As noted earlier, the decision to expand the terms of reference of this Committee to include transport and set up a Standing Committee on Housing and Physical Planning was taken by the Commission at its fifth session in February 1963. During 1962, apart from building up the staff of the responsible Division of the secretariat and collecting material, the first major step taken in the industrial field was to prepare a study of industrial growth in Africa, including prospects in the next decade. This study surveyed and analysed trends in the last ten years. It pointed out that whereas the gap between agricultural production per head between Africa and Western Europe was between two and three times, the industrial gap was some 25-fold. It also pointed out that it had taken no more than a century for Western Europe to industrialize, from present African levels, and that it was well within the bounds of possibility for Africa to reach present Western European levels in half this time. The importance was stressed of increasing agricultural production, of further processing of agricultural, raw materials and mineral resources, both for domestic markets and exports, and of substituting domestic production for imported consumer goods and light industrial products. Nevertheless, a major objective of policy should be to start now the laying down of modern industries, strategic for economic development. Given the limited size of African markets and the heavy investment required, this could only be done through sub-regional co-operation and the deliberate sharing out of key industries.

A provisional version of this study was considered by the first meeting of the Standing Committee on Industry and Natural Resources, held in December 1962. (A revised version will shortly be published in printed form). The Committee, and subsequently the fifth session of the Commission, strongly endorsed the thesis of the industrial growth study and decided to follow it up by two parallel lines of action.

Three missions have been organized, made up of ECA personnel, outside consultants and experts from FAO and ILO, with the task of examining on the spot the scope for sub-regional co-operation in the laying down of modern industry. Their basic task has been in effect to re-draw the industrial map of Africa. One mission has already visited West Africa and is now preparing its report. Another, to East and Central Africa, is in progress; and a third will be sent to North Africa at the beginning of 1964.

The second prong of the attack on the industrialization problem is a series of studies on various industries, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, engineering, chemicals and fertilizers, textiles, and building materials. These studies are being submitted to meetings of government experts, normally on a sub-regional basis. The first of them, a study of iron and steel in West Africa, was examined by a meeting of West African experts, held in Monrovia in October 1963. It was agreed at this meeting that there was scope for the setting up of one integrated iron and steel plant in West Africa, designed to serve a large part of the needs of the West African market. There are three potential sites, and their relative advantages and disadvantages are now being examined, together with other related problems, with a view to a further meeting to be held in April, 1964. Similar meetings are planned, to deal with the other industries under consideration, in 1964/65.

These have been the highlights of the industrial programme so far. A number of other projects are in the course of being carried out: collection and improvement of industrial statistics; a study of industrial legislation; and preparations for other activities referred to in the last part of this note. Specific plans are being worked out in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned for the establishment of a sub-regional network of applied industrial research institutes and training facilities.

In the energy field, the first step was the preparation for the first African Electric Power Conference, held in October 1963. For this conference, a basic survey of trends and prospects in electric power production and consumption was prepared. The Conference drew attention to the many possibilities of bilateral or multi-lateral co-operation both in the development of power production and in serving deficit countries from surplus countries, and the secretariat was asked to assist governments in following these up concretely. Other studies were initiated, e.g. on small generators and on ways and means of increasing power consumption. Great emphasis was placed on the establishment of training facilities.

In the mineral resources field, a basic survey of mineral resources and their development potential is being carried out. Major emphasis is being laid on assistance to governments in maintaining or expanding mineral survey departments; on the expansion of training facilities and on drawing attention to immediate possibilities of exploitation of mineral resources. A similar approach has been adopted for water resources, both surface and ground water: surveys, development and training. Particular attention is being paid to co-operative multi-purpose development of international rivers and river basins, for example the Senegal, Niger and Nile rivers and the Chad basin.

A Cartographic Unit was established in 1963 and was responsible for organizing the first African Cartographic Conference in Nairobi in July 1963. This is being followed up, with emphasis on giving assistance to national cartographic centres.

The first step in the transport field was to organize preliminary meetings on transport problems, for West Africa, held in Monrovia in October 1961, and for East and Central Africa in Addis Ababa in November 1962. These meetings had as background documents preliminary studies of transport problems in the sub-regions concerned. Efforts are now being concentrated on basic studies of the development of transport in West Africa, East and Central Africa and North Africa. Basic data are being compiled on the transport situation in these three sub-regions. The prospective demand for transport services over the next decade is being analyzed. An attempt is being made to establish the relative costs of different forms of transport as a guide to investment policy. A tentative transport map is being worked out with as the next step sub-regional meetings to discuss specific proposals for transport development. The O.A.U. has joined forces with ICAO in studying African Air services, with a view to preparing proposals for a possible pan-African Civil Aviation Conference towards the end of 1964, the primary purpose of which would be to introduce greater rationality in the African transport network and to encourage various kinds of intra-African co-operation. Similarly, joint efforts are being made between ECA and ITU to establish an African telecommunications network, by establishing an emergency plan and pointing out possibilities of obtaining financial and material help from outside Africa.

In the housing field, ECA's efforts were originally concentrated on propagating the idea of aided self-help. However, the main effort is now being concentrated on encouraging the formulation of long-term housing policies and the setting up of suitable national housing agencies with the task of preparing a housing programme, proposing suitable legislation and assisting in the execution of proper housing policies. Emphasis is being placed on the mobilization of private savings for house construction and on studying ways and means of reducing housing costs. Studies are being carried out with a view to encouraging greater production in Africa of building materials and components, where appropriate, through sub-regional co-operation. Finally, a start has been made on the examination of town and country and regional planning problems.

ECA's training activities have hitherto been somewhat dispersed and sporadic. As indicated earlier in this paper, a network of statistical training centres, largely for middle-grade personnel, has been established. Training activities have been carried out on social welfare and community development and demography. Some of the activities of the joint FAO/ECA Division on agricultural problems have also been in the training field. This is also true of trade, e.g. training courses in customs administration, commercial and fiscal policy. In the relatively new field, so far as ECA is concerned, of industry, transport, energy, natural resources and housing, training activities, as has already been seen, are still at the planning stage.

In the last year, two new major activities in the training field have been initiated. One is to develop and systematize training programmes offered by the developed countries. The other is to draw much more fully on the facilities offered by African universities. Finally, reference should again be made to the establishment of the African Institute for Development and Planning set up in Dakar; and the African Development Bank, significant part of the programme of which will be concerned with training banking officials.

ECA's activities in public administration started in the middle of 1962. A major conference on urgent problems of public administration was held in the autumn of 1962 which, inter alia, proposed a long-term programme of work.

The tasks ahead and ECA's contribution

The economic and social problems requiring solution in Africa are obviously vast. The last section of this note focusses attention in summary form on the key issues where international action can be of practical assistance, with special reference to the programme of activities of the ECA over the next five years.

1. There is insufficient knowledge of the structure of the African economy. Moreover, statistical information is still deficient in both quality and quantity. A basic economic survey of Africa is thus in progress and should be completed by the end of 1964. Meanwhile ECA's work in statistics, both statistical development and training activities, will be intensified.

2. The movement as rapidly as possible towards an African Common Market and a Payments Union is a prerequisite for real economic development. ECA, through studies and meetings, will intensify its efforts.

3. It is urgent to raise the productivity of agriculture through the application of fertilizers, irrigation and machinery, agricultural credit, the removal of institutional obstacles associated, for example, with land tenure, and training schemes. In close harmony with FAO, ECA will continue to work towards the solution of these problems. In particular through technical and ministerial meetings, it will actively promote transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture.

4. One of the most urgent problems facing Africa is the need for rapid industrialization, and this means above all the development of large-scale modern industry on a sub-regional basis. ECA will follow up its three industrial survey missions by intensive studies of practical possibilities of establishing new industries, with the double purpose of helping in the creation of new industries and the harmonization of industrial development plans. A series of meetings to discuss concrete possibilities, largely on a sub-regional basis, are planned.

ECA will act as a catalyst in providing technical help where required , promoting feasibility studies and, as appropriate, finding development capital. Together with the specialized agencies concerned and the UN Special Fund, it will promote the establishment of research institutions and training facilities at all levels. Much remains to be done to improve techniques of industrial programming and preparations are being made for a seminar on this subject early in 1965. Plans are also in hand for a seminar on industrial estates to be held in 1964.

5. In transport the main problem is the sheer lack of transport facilities of all kinds between African countries. ECA is carrying out a major survey of existing facilities, analyzing the future demand for transport services, and attempting to reach conclusions on relative costs of different forms of transport in different parts of the continent. This survey is designed to produce concrete proposals for consideration by governments meeting at the sub-regional level. Together with ICAO, ECA is preparing plans for the development and rationalization of air transport facilities through co-operation and by making greater use of air as a medium for the carrying of freight. Together with ITU, ECA is preparing a programme for the immediate development of telecommunication facilities.

6. Africa is well endowed with energy resources but these are still relatively little used. ECA will work towards the development of both production and consumption of electric power, exploiting wherever possible the scope for co-operation between countries. The first African Electric Power Conference will be followed by a similar conference in 1965 on oil and natural gas. Here again there are immense possibilities of development through sub-regional co-operation. ECA will continue its work on the surveying and development of mineral and water resources.

7. Although all African countries are moving towards comprehensive development planning, much remains to be done to improve techniques of drawing up plans and putting them into execution. Furthermore, the work being done towards the development of agriculture, industry, transport and energy resources and the promotion of intra-African trade must culminate in the co-ordination of over-all development plans. ECA is now preparing a major study dealing with development problems and prospects in Africa which will be presented for discussion at a meeting of senior economic planners to be held towards the end of 1964. This study analyses the development plans of African countries with a view to bringing out how problems of internal and external balance are acting as bottlenecks to the acceleration of the rate of economic growth. It explores the role of government policies in this direction and will also attempt to outline the main contours of economic transition and growth in Africa in the next two or three decades.

8. In the social field the main task now is to concentrate on the organizational and operational problems of developing social welfare services, urban and rural, with increasing emphasis on the transition from the community development approach to the organization and growth of services and institutions within a professional framework of national and local government. This requires a co-ordinated attack with the UN specialized agencies also concerned, UNESCO, WHO, ILO and UNICEF. ECA will give special emphasis to the solution of problems encountered by national governments in the development of rural life and institutions. It will also concentrate on the provision of training for social work.

9. A complete solution of the housing problem in Africa will take decades. The main task now is to move from self-help to the development of organized housing policies with a framework of legislation and housing institutions and provision for the financing of housing from domestic sources. Coupled with this is the need to develop production of building materials and organized building industries so as to make possible the production of better housing at lower cost. These are the main lines along which ECA is tackling this problem.

10. There is a need for massive development of public administration facilities at both the central and local government level. ECA has now established a comprehensive programme in this field.

11. Africa lacks training facilities of every kind. ECA will intensify its programmes in this area through training courses, institution building, more organized use of facilities available outside Africa and, above all, by mobilising African universities.

12. There is a need to and scope for the mobilization of African financial resources. This will be the task of the African Development Bank.

13. Nevertheless, Africa requires more external aid. This would be facilitated by greater co-ordination both among African countries as recipients of aid and among the donor countries. All agencies working towards the development of Africa must concern themselves with this problem.

14. It will be seen that much is being done by ECA and others towards the solution of Africa's economic and social problems. In the last analysis, however, the economic and social work can bear fruit only if there is co-operation among African governments through decisions taken at the highest level. This is the major task of the Organization of African Unity.

15. From the account given above it may be observed that the interpretation and implementation of the mandate of the ECA have taken on distinct features, namely:-

1. investigations and advisory services to African governments.
2. based on investigations, the bringing together of governments, normally on a sub-regional basis to agree upon and examine the practical steps required to set up new industries, develop natural resources including energy, develop transport networks, etc.

3. the setting up of institutions indispensable to economic and social advancement
4. the training of the personnel needed to staff and run such institutions.

In the performance of these tasks the ECA, as an organ erected by UNO, can and does call on all the specialized agencies for assistance and co-operation. The network of the UN Resident Representatives and Directors of the Special Fund has been of increasing help. Even though the finances at the disposal of the ECA are limited, exploratory and consultative functions enable it increasingly to play a catalytic role in the provision of multi-lateral and bilateral aid to African governments. Moreover, it is the intention as well as the privilege of the Commission to call on African and non-African members of the UN for advice and material assistance. Furthermore it is expected that the Commission will authorize the secretariat not merely to co-operate with the OAU but to service the Commission and Committees created by the Addis Ababa Conference as well as others which might later be deemed necessary.

Special emphasis has been placed on training, a field in which assistance in setting up and running special institutions in Africa, supplemented by invitations to African countries to send personnel abroad for observation and further training may prove decisive.

The Commission's programme is classified under two broad headings: continuous projects and ad hoc projects in particular are reviewed annually and represent the successive steps taken towards the achievement of ECA's objectives.

Should the ECA in co-operation with OAU succeed in mobilizing the human and material resources of Africa and should the expected international assistance and co-operation be forthcoming, it would be reasonable to envisage, at least, some parts of Africa achieving present day levels of European Economic Development in the next fifty years. This would be bloodless - and perhaps the most peaceful-revolution in the history of mankind.

ECOS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

First session

Niamey, December 1963

LIST OF DELEGATES

LISTE DES DELEGUES

ALGERIA/ALGERIE

M. BENYELLES

Ministère des Affaires étrangères,
Conseiller d'Ambassade

M. Driss El Djazairi

Conseiller du Gouvernement algérien

CAMEROON/CAMEROUN

M. THABENE Hubert

Directeur de Cabinet du Secrétaire d'Etat
au Travail du Cameroun oriental

M. KOULE Théodore

Directeur des Changes et Règlements internationaux

CONGO (Léopoldville)

S.E. M. NYEMBO Albert

Ministre de l'Economie nationale

M. MAIKWAMBALA

Secrétaire général du Ministère du Travail

M. TUMAWAKU

Chef de Caginet

M. MANWANA Oscar

M. KASWEKA ILUNGA Jérôme

Secrétaire particulier du Ministre de l'Economie nationale

M. PAMDEMOJA François K.

Directeur au Ministère de l'Economie nationale

IVORY COAST/ COTE D'IVOIRE

M. TADJO
Conseiller économique et social

Docteur TANOË
Vice-Président du Conseil économique et social de Côte d'Ivoire

M. NOUAMA
Directeur des Affaires politiques

DAHOMÉY

M. ADANDE Jacques
Directeur des Affaires politiques et économiques
au Ministère des Affaires étrangères

M. IBRAHIM Souradjou
Chef de la Coopération technique au Commissariat général au Plan

ETHIOPIA/ETHIOPIE

H.E. Mr. ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN
Minister of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Araya S. SIRK
Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Gurfa G. MEDHIN
Director General, Ministry of Finance

Mr. DEMEKE ZEWOLDE
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

GABON

S.E. M. A.G. ANGUILE
Ministre d'Etat Chargé de l'économie nationale du Plan et des Mines

M. J. DAVID
Directeur des douanes

M.R. CONIQUET
Conseiller à la Présidence

GHANA

Mr. A.K. ONWONA-AGYEMAN
Deputy Minister of Finance

Mr. H.R. AMONOO
Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. J.A. ASMAH
Senior Assistant Secretary (African Affairs Secretariat)

Mr.J.E. TANDOH
Deputy Government Statistician

Mr.K.N. ONUMAH
Commercial Officer,
Ministry of Trade

Mr. J.A. YAKUBU
Chargé d'Affaires,
Embassy of Ghana, Niger

GUINEA/GUINEE

S.E. M. CONTE SALDOU
Ministre de l'Education nationale, de la Jeunesse et de la Culture

M. BANGOURA MOHAMED KASSORY
Directeur des Affaires économiques et sociales
au Ministère des Affaires étrangères

LIBERIA

Mr.A. ROMEO HORTON
Assistant Economic Advisor to the President of Liberia
President of the Bank of Liberia

Mr. David Franklin NEAL
Director of Economic Research and Planning,
Office of National Planning

LIBYA/LIBYE

Mr. MAHMOUD BEN K
Head of the Industrial Planning Section,
Ministry of Planning and Development

Mr. SHOKREY GHANEM
Assistant Director of Trade and Economic Affairs
Ministry of National Economy

MADAGASCAR

M. RAJAONARIVONY Robert
Directeur du Commerce extérieur

MALI

M. SEKOU SANGARE
Conseiller technique au Ministère des Finances

M. SAMBALA SISSOKO
Directeur des Douanes

M. YAYA DIAKITE
Ministère d'Etat. Chargé du Plan et de la Coordination
des Affaires économiques et financières

M. NAMORY KEITA
Directeur national du Travail et de la Sécurité sociale

M. HANGADOUMBO TOURE
Ambassadeur du Mali au Niger

M. MOUSSA KEITA
Haut Commissaire à la Jeunesse et aux Sports
de la République du Mali

M. HAMACIRE N'DOURE
Ministre du Commerce et des Transports

MAURETANIA/ MAURITANIE

M. IBRAHIMA KANE
Administrateur de la R.I.R. Attaché à la Présidence

MOROCCO/MAROC

S.E. M. ABDALLAH LAMRANI
Ambassadeur du Maroc en Côte d'Ivoire

M. AHMED BENNANI
Directeur du Crédit
Ministère des Finances

M. MOHAMED BELGHITI
Directeur de l'Office chérifien d'exportations

M. LARBI EL HASSOUNI
Chargé de Missions au Ministère des Affaires économiques

M. MOHAMED GOURJA
Sous-directeur au Ministère du Travail

NIGER

S.E. M. COURMO BARCOURGNE
Ministre des Finances et des Affaires économiques.

M. A. DIAROUMEYE
Directeur du Commerce intérieur et extérieur

M. LOUTOU Ibrahim
Directeur des Affaires politiques, économiques et culturelles,
Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

M. Jean POISSON
Fonctionnaire au Ministère des finances et des Affaires économiques.

M. SIDIBE Aboubakar
Premier Secrétaire d'Ambassade.

M. ADAMOU SALIFOU
Inspecteur des douanes.

M. René DELANNE
Secrétaire général de l'Union nationale des travailleurs
du Niger.

M. BOUKAR AMADOU
Directeur Administratif B D R N

M. AMADOU ALKALI
Chef du Bureau des Changes au Ministère des finances et des
Affaires économiques.

NIGERIA

Mr. MUHAMMAD SANI
Chargé d'Affaires of Nigeria in the Republic of Niger

H.E. Mr. ALHAJI SHEENU SHAGARI
Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Mr. S. B. FALEGAN
Research Officer, Central Bank of Nigeria.

Mr. Z. OLU OMOLOLU
Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

DR. E. O. IWAUAGWU
Ag; Senior assistant Secretary
Federal Ministry of Economic Development.

HON. ALHAJI SHEENU SHAGARI
Minister of Internal Affairs.

SENEGAL

M. A. SOW
Inspecteur des Affaires financières

M. MOIGNARD Daniel
Sous-Directeur au B C E A O

M. A. LAM
Chef des Accords bilatéraux au Ministère des Affaires étrangères

SUDAN/SOUDAN

H.E. Mr. BASHIR BAKRI
Ambassador of Sudan

TANGANYIKA

Mr. A. Z. NSILOSWAI

Mr. Peter KISUMO
Reg. Commissioner

Mr. J. K. B. NYERERE
Junior Minister
Ministry of National Culture and Youth

Mr. A. SAIDI
Assistant Judge (Senior Resident Magistrate)

Mrs. Elizabeth MBWILO
Personal secretary to the Minister

Mr. Clement TIBAZARKIA
Economist

TOGO

M. DJANDO Théodore
Attaché de Cabinet
Ministère du commerce, de l'industrie et du tourisme

M. MANDOUBI SANDANI BAWA
Administrateur civil à la Direction du Plan du Togo

M. GBEASOR Jean
Contrôleur du Travail.

TUNISIA/TUNISIE

M. Habib CHERIF
Chef du Service du Travail et de la Prévoyance sociale au Secrétariat
d'Etat à la Santé publique et aux Affaires sociales

M. Chesly AYARI
Conseiller économique
Mission permanente de la Tunisie auprès de l'ONU

UGANDA/UGANDA

Mr. GERARD G.N. NSUBUGA
Foreign Service Officer

Mr. John G.W. MULINDWA
Education Officer
Ministry of Education

U.A.R./R.A.U.

Mr. MOHAMED ALY AMER
Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy

Mr. MAHFOUR HAMD I
Director Air Safety, Civil Aviation Department

Dr. MAHMOUD MOHAMMED RIAD
Director General Telecommunications Organization

Mr. ABDEL RAHMAN MOHAMMED
Controller of Tariffs, Ministry of Treasury

Mr. MOUKTAR NAFEL
Expert in the Ministry of Labor

M. MANSOUR FAHMY
Directeur du Département d'Afrique

M. MORSI ABOELELA HARIDI
Contrôleur, Ministère de l'Economie

M. SALAH ELDIN AMIN EZZAT
Premier Secrétaire au Ministère des Affaires étrangères

Mr. I. M. LOUTFI
General Director, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Economy

ORGANISATIONS

B.C.E.A.O

M. SANNER
Directeur des Etudes,
Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

C.E.A.

M. SYLLA ALMAMY
Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (Addis Ababa)
Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary

M.P.RATAFIKA
Directeur du Bureau sous-régional de la CEA à Niamey, Niger

Mr. C. BRIGHT
Economic Affairs Officer, ECA Sub-regional office, Niamey, Niger

U.A.M.P.T.

M. BALIMA
Secrétaire général

M. RIZET
Directeur du Bureau d'Etudes

AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE

African Union Common Repository

<http://archives.au.int>

Organs

Council of Ministers & Executive Council Collection

1964-01

Proceeding and report of the Economic and Social Commission

Organization of African Unity

Organization of African Unity

<https://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/6733>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository